

VIA BRINDISI]

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REGIA

The London and China 新聞報 Telegraph.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY ON ARRIVAL OF THE P. & O. MESSAGERIES AND PACIFIC MAILS FROM CHINA JAPAN STRAITS SETTLEMENTS, &c

IN CONNECTION WITH THE "LONDON AND CHINA EXPRESS." A WEEKLY SUMMARY FOR THE OUTWARD MAILS.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1877.

The Subscription for the year 1877 is now payable, at the rate of Two Guineas per annum. Cheques and Post-office Orders are to be drawn in favour of James West.

THE MAIL SERVICE FOR 1877.

With the present Number of the London and China Telegraph is issued (Free to Subscribers) a Table, showing the Arrivals and Departures of the P. and O. and Messageries Mail Services for the Year 1877. Extra Copies are on sale at our Office, price One Shilling per copy.

Latest Advices.

PORTS	OUTWARD.		HOMeward.	
	From London.	Arrived out.		
JAPAN—Yokohama	Oct. 6	Nov. 25	Nov. 25 ^a	
Iedo ...		—	—	20 ^b
Osaka and Hiogo ...	—	—	—	18 ^c
Hakodadi ...	—	—	—	5
Nagasaki ...	—	—	—	9
CHINA—Peking ...	—	—	—	13
Tien-tsin ...	—	—	—	12
Chefoo ...	—	—	—	15
New-chwang ...	—	—	—	17
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Chin-kiang ...	Sept. 29	—	—	17
Shangchian ...	—	—	—	18
Ningpo ...	—	—	—	19
Foochow ...	—	—	—	20
Fornosa ...	—	—	—	21
Amoy ...	—	—	—	22
Swatow ...	—	—	—	23
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Canton ...	—	—	—	25
Macao ...	—	—	—	26
PHILIPPINES—Manila ...	—	—	—	19
COCHIN-CHINA—Saigon ...	—	—	—	25
SIAM—Bangkok ...	—	—	—	20
BORNEO—Labuan ...	—	—	—	26
JAVA—Batavia ...	—	—	—	25
Samprang ...	—	—	—	23
Soufahra ...	—	—	—	23
MALACCA STRAITS—Singapore ...	—	—	—	30
Penang ...	—	—	—	Dec. 2
CEYLON—Galle	—	—	—	9
Colombo ...	—	—	—	7
* Via San Francisco				

THE MAILS, &c.

The P. and O. mail, with the advices dated as above, from China and the Straits Settlements, was delivered, *sia Brindisi*, yesterday, some hours late. The Japan advices, both by the present and next mail, have been anticipated by the mail from Yokohama, Nov. 25, received by the Pacific Mail Company's steamer *City of Peking*, *sia San Francisco*, this morning. The next inward (French) mail from Yokohama 21st, Shanghai 24th, Hong Kong 30th Nov., Singapore 7th Dec., which is due, *sia Marseilles*, on Monday next, the 8th inst., left Suez on the 26th ult., three days early, and will probably reach London on Friday or Saturday.

List of Passengers.

PASSENGERS INWARD.

By this mail to Brindisi, per P. and O. steamer *Pera*, arrived Dec. 29.—From Yokohama: Messrs. Feneri, Ughes, Imberti, and Pini. From Singapore: Mr. McLean,

Mr. Hopkinson. From Galle: Mr. and Mrs. Smythe, Capt. Davidson. To Venice, arrived Jan. 1.—From Yokohama: Mr. Fribby, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Christy.

To Southampton, per P. and O. steamer *Mongolia*, expected to arrive Jan. 7.—From Yokohama: Mr. R. Wilkinson. From Shanghai: Mr. St. Clair, Mr. Vickery. From Hong Kong: Capt. Thackery, Lieut. Coghlan. From Penang: Mr. Green, Miss Glasson. From Galle: Mr., Mrs., and Miss Webb.

PASSENGERS OUTWARD.

Per French steamer *Tigre*, from Marseilles, Dec. 31.—To Shanghai: Mr. E. Muller Mr. Davis. To Hong Kong: Mr. Parquer. Mr. Grossmann. To Saigon: Mr. de Gaffierie. To Batavia: Mr. J. Schmutz, Mr. S. Moormann, Mr. Solas. To Singapore, for Manila: Lieut.-Colonel Daban and wife. To Galle: Mr. J. Alexander, Mr. Mac Martin, Mr. Petit, Mr. Watson, Mr. Pelleris.

Per French steamer *Anday*, from Marseilles, Jan. 14.—To Shanghai: Mr. L. Urquhart Stuart, Mr. R. D. McKie. To Hong Kong: Mr. and Mrs. W. Forbes, Miss Forbes, Mr. and Mrs. H. Abendroth. To Batavia: Mr. H. O. Allbrook. To Singapore: Mr. Gunn. To Colombo: Mr. W. Thomas. To Galle: Mr. De Lescert.

Per French steamer *Peko*, from Marseilles, Jan. 28.—To Shanghai: Mr. and Mrs. Johnson.

Per French steamer *Djeanak*, from Marseilles, Feb. 11.—To Hong Kong: Mr. Forbes Angus.

Per French steamer *Ava*, from Marseilles, April 8.—To Hong Kong: Mr. C. Sinclair.

Per P. and O. steamer *Deccan*, from Southampton, Dec. 29.—To Singapore: Mr. W. Stevenson. To Colombo: Mr. R. S. Welsford, Mr. Gore, Mr. J. Brown, Mr. T. Potts, Surg. major and Mrs. Stanley and two children.

Per P. and O. steamer *Tekerau*, from Southampton, Jan. 4.—To Hong Kong: Mr. and Mrs. Greig.

Per P. and O. steamer *Pera*, from Venice, Jan. 5.—To Singapore: Mr. W. Forrest. To Colombo: Rev. H. and Mrs. Newton and child, Sir W. Hackett, Mr. R. Anstruther.

Per P. and O. steamer *Pera*, from Brindisi, Jan. 8.—To Hong Kong: Mr. H. Dean. To Singapore: Mr. Urquhart.

Per P. and O. steamer *Australia*, from Southampton, Jan. 11.—To Shanghai: Mr. T. Middleton. To Hong Kong: Captain G. T. Pitman. To Ceylon: Captain Hinckman.

Per P. and O. steamer *Poonak*, from Southampton, Jan. 25.—To Hong Kong: Mr. and Mrs. F. White and three children. To Colombo: Mr. R. E. Prince.

Per P. and O. steamer *Nepaul*, from Southampton, Feb. 8.—To Yokohama: Mrs. Ellerton and family.

Per str. *Ulysses* (Holt's line), from Liverpool, Dec. 30.—To Singapore: Mr. Ruppell. To Hong Kong: Miss Algar.

Summary of News from the Far East.

JAPAN.

YOKOHAMA.

The present P. and O. mail brings advices from this port to the 14th November, and we have advices by the Occidental and Oriental Company's steamer *Gaelic*, via San Francisco, one day later, viz., to the 15th November. The French mail from London, September 8, arrived out on the 26th October, and the following P. and O. mail of September 15 was received on the 30th October, the French mail of September 22 on the 10th November, and the P. and O. mail of September 29 on the 14th November. The *Japan Herald* supplies the following items of news:

The principal, we might say the sole, topic of interest during the interval has been an insurrection in the Western provinces against the Government. The first news of this outbreak reached here on the day of the departure of the last steamer, and consisted of the information that the garrison of Kumamoto, together with nearly all the officials of the *ken*, had been surprised during the night of the 24th October, and cut to pieces. From this spot the insurrection soon spread to the neighbouring *ken*, and a variety of more or less important risings took place, the most serious of which was one in the province of Choshu, headed by a *samurai* named Mayebara, a man of great influence in the clan. Although these various bodies of rebels were at first enabled to secure some advantages over the Government troops' yet as soon as the necessary reinforcements arrived for these latter, they speedily crushed all organised opposition, and the outbreak may now be considered at an end, as a telegram, received here on the 10th November, announced the capture of Mayebara. The object of the insurgents was simply to get rid

of the present members of the Government, and they all expressed their unabated loyalty to the Mikado. Although, in the absence of any participation in the movement by the powerful Satsuma clan, the insurrection was never really dangerous, it was at one time watched with much anxiety, and must have cost the Government a very large sum for its suppression, besides the loss of hundreds of lives.

Although we are obliged to blame the misguided authors of these deeds for their sanguinary violence, it is scarcely fair to judge of their acts as we would judge of those of Europeans. These men, the ancient gentry of the country, have been oppressed on all sides, as even the apologists of the present Government are obliged to own. There have been numbers of oppressive laws passed; bit by bit their privileges have been taken away, and latterly they have been forcibly deprived of a very large portion of their incomes by a measure which could not have been passed in any other country in the world. When to these facts it is added that there are no means of making their desires or wishes known to the Government, that there are no representative institutions, that even all complaints in the papers, whether true or false, are remorselessly visited by punishment, it is scarcely to be wondered at that the sufferers should rise against the small band of bureaucrats who rule them with an iron hand. Meanwhile, although devoting its principal attention to the suppression of the insurrection, the Government has not relaxed its hold on the press. Prosecutions have been more numerous than usual, and another paper, the *Chiugai Hioron*, has been suppressed.

The Japanese gunboat *Umyo-Kan*, on her way to the Kumamoto insurrection, with troops, has been lost on the Kiushui coast. The steamer *Meiji Maru* has visited the scene of the wreck, which was found to be lying on the beach broadside on to the sea, which had washed her up about fifty feet, and nearly buried her in the sand. She is a total wreck, it being considered useless to attempt to get her off, her bottom being much injured. The ill-fated vessel went on shore in a gale whilst under close reefed topsails and reefed foresail. All her boats were swamped, or stove in on being lowered, and fifteen seamen and eight officers found a watery grave. The crew are employed in getting out the guns, boilers, engines, gear, &c., which, as the vessel lies firmly embedded in the sand, in an upright position, is not likely to prove a difficult job.

The Import market has been much depressed, and transactions have been small. The Silk market has also been restricted, in consequence of the receipt of continual telegrams from Europe, reporting the outbreak of war as imminent. But few purchases of silk worms' egg cards have taken place, the large majority of the *graineurs* refusing to pay the prices demanded by the Japanese. A fair business has been done in Tea, and prices have fallen slightly.

A most serious fire has occurred at Kanyawa. It started in a general store; but many persons who were on the spot affirm that it began simultaneously in no less than three different places. Be this as it may, the fire commenced about half a mile from the Kanagawa Railway station, in the direction of Tokio, and burnt down the houses on a space of about five hundred yards on both sides of the Tokaido. The number of houses burnt can hardly be less than from 350 to 500. A strong gale of wind was blowing at the time.

Among the passengers arrived from Shanghai is the Austro-Hungarian Minister, his Excellency Chevalier de Schaeffer. We understand that he will make a prolonged stay in Japan, and that the house in Tsukidji, formerly occupied by the Peruvian Minister, has been taken for the Austrian Legation.

The time of the community has lately been principally given up to amusements, the half-yearly meetings of the Race Club, the Athletic Association, and of the Tir Suisse having taken place this month. The football season has also commenced.

The Imperial Marines, a body on which much money had been expended, and who were amongst the best drilled troops of the Government, have been abolished.

Two of the steamers purchased by the Mitsu Bishi Company from the P. & O. S. N. Company are about to be sent to England to be fitted with compound engines.

The following items of intelligence are from the *Japan Mail*.

The rebellion may be regarded as effectually put down. Mayebara and most of the ringleaders have been taken, and the *Nichi Nichi Shimbun* of this morning reports that the Commissary of the Akidzuki insurgents was captured at Kokura. On examination he divulged the facts that the outbreak was planned by Mayebara in the spring of this year, and the *samurai* of Akidzuki, Kurume, Saga and Kumamoto, together with some of those from Tokio and the province of Etchigo, were invited to join in a movement against the Government to take place on the 26th and 27th of October. But the Kumamoto men acted with too much precipitation, and thus dis-organised the plans of the other rebels.

A launch took place on the 28th Oct. from Messrs. Whitfield and Dowson's yard of a small steamer, named *La Mouette*, which has been built by that firm for the Messageries Maritimes. The vessel will have ample accommodation for passengers proceeding on board the Company's steamers, and for valuable cargo, such as silk, &c. The length of the vessel between perpendiculars is

ft. 96.10; beam inside planking ft. 14.2, and depth of hold ft. 6.1. She carries a single engine, the cylinder of which is 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. diameter, with 8 in. stroke, and is expected to steam 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ knots.

Mr. Yebihara, editor of the newspaper called *Chiugai Hioron*, has been summoned to the Tokio-fu, and there informed that his paper has been suppressed by order received from the Home Department. Mr. Katsukawa, editor of the *Chiugai Hioron*, has been sentenced to three months' imprisonment for a transgression of the Press regulations.

The officials of the War Department are at present so busy, that attendance at the office is not interrupted by Sundays or holidays.

LATER ADVICES BY PACIFIC MAIL.

At the moment of going to press we have received advices to November 25 by the Pacific mail steamer *City of Peking*, via San Francisco. The French mail from London, Oct. 6, arrived out on the 25th Nov. The *Japan Herald* contains the following summary of news:—

The insurrection is believed to be entirely stamped out, although disquieting rumours as to isolated cases of small outbreaks appear now and again in the native papers. Nothing authentic is, however, known as to the amount of truth contained in these reports. One fact which would serve to show that nothing further is apprehended is found in the circumstance that the Empress left for Kioto overland on the 29th Nov. Oki, the Minister of Justice, departed for the seat of the late outbreak on the 14th Nov., with a view of organising special courts to try the captured rebels. It is a singular circumstance, that out of between three and four hundred Daimios that formerly dominated Japan there is not a solitary one that holds a leading position in the Government of the country to-day. Such an utter decadence and blotting out, in a few years, of a once powerful aristocracy is unparalleled in history. Sunk in sloth, luxury, and unbounded sensuality, they have fallen never to rise again. Power, political influence, social consideration, and wealth, have all waned, until the ex-Daimios have become but the shadows of their former selves, and are fast sinking out of sight; their very names are becoming obliterated; they will soon become a mere tradition of the past, embalmed only in the half-romantic, half-historical literature of the feudal period.

One rumour, which if true, would throw some light on the quiescence of the Satsuma clan during the late outbreak, has found its way into the native press, and has not been contradicted. It is to the effect that the members of that powerful clan are to be exempt from the effects of the late decree by which the principal portion of the *shizoku*'s revenues was confiscated. It is scarcely to be believed that even in a despotic country like this such an outrage on equity, and at the same time such a confession of weakness, would be made.

The native journals contain reports that changes are to be made in the Press Laws, but the extent of these changes, and whether they are to render those laws more or less stringent does not appear to be known. It would seem somewhat difficult to increase their severity, and they are still wielded with an iron hand, the appearance of editors before the Courts being of almost daily occurrence.

Our Import Market has been quiet, and a decline is shown in the rates for most staples. The receipt of several disquieting telegrams from Europe has had a continued depressing effect on Silk, and but little business has been transacted. Settlements in Teas are but small, about 2,000 piculs, and prices have somewhat fallen. The present mail will carry a considerable quantity of Silk-worms' Eggs, which are being shipped on native account.

A special infirmary for the treatment of diseases of the eye has been established in Tokio. In years past a great number of cases of blindness resulted from the prevalence of virulent small-pox; thanks, however, to vaccination, which the authorities, with praiseworthy efforts, enforce, every year exhibits a diminution of these cases. There are, however, at all times plenty of instances of ophthalmia and other diseases incident to the eye calling for the exercise of medical skill, and the new institution cannot fail to be largely useful. The Infirmary was formally opened on the 20th Nov. by Dr. Simmons, surgeon in charge, assisted by Drs. Matsuyama and Kunimanga, well-known Tokio practitioners. It is a brick two-story building on the lower left hand corner of the Ginza, about half-way up from the station. It contains a dispensary, light and convenient consulting-rooms, and accommodation for about a dozen patients. It is the first and only institution of the kind in this country. A dinner was given at the opening to about forty persons. Among the guests were H. E. R. Kuki, Acting Minister of Education, Keitsuki Otori of the Okurasho, Dr. Hepburn, Dr. Macartie, and a number of the leading (Japanese) doctors in Tokio.

The German newspaper published here, the *Ostasiatische Zeitung*, has come to a sudden stoppage; its editor departed by the last American mail without beat of drum. A new weekly journal, the *Tokio Times*, edited by a well-known American journalist, is announced to make its first appearance at the beginning of 1877. We can only speculate as to the character, objects, and purposes to be served by this new literary venture, since they are not at present divulged.

The steamer *Niigata Maru* has been towed to Yokoska, for the purpose of removing her machinery, boilers, &c., preparatory to fitting her up as a sailing vessel, it being intended by the Mitsu Bishi Company to send her and the *Takasago Maru* to Europe with cargoes of rice, having discharged which they will be fitted with compound engines adapted to the consumption of a small amount of fuel, and then will return to Japan. The *Takasago Maru*, we understand, will be rigged as a four-masted ship, and the *Niigata Maru* as a barque.

The steamship *Meiji Maru* has finished loading about nine miles of submarine telegraphic cable, which is intended to be laid between No-o-Saki, on the northern shore of the island of Sikok, and Shibukawa, in the province of Bizen, Nippon, on the opposite shore of the Inland Sea, immediately to the westward of Cone Island (a place well known to navigators), the distance across being about six miles.

The first meeting of the newly formed Yokohama Racing Association was held here on the 16th, 17th, and 18th November. The most strenuous exertions were made by those identified by these races to render them a success.

Mr. Okuedo, editor of the *Choya Shimbun*, was sentenced on 18th Nov. to three months' imprisonment, and fined twenty yen, for transgressing the Press regulations.

It is stated that the Ouyeno Exhibition, announced for next year, will be opened on the 1st August.

(FROM A CORRESPONDENT.)

YOKOHAMA, NOV. 15.

By the French mail which left this port on the 7th instant I wrote to you, giving a short account of the insurrections. I now take advantage of the departure of the *Gaelic* for San Francisco to send you a few additional lines, and probably my two letters will arrive almost simultaneously. It is possible, indeed, that the later written may be the first to arrive, going as it does by the more rapid route, and having the advantage of the quick transit likely to be made across the Pacific by the splendid steamer *Gaelic*.

The rebellion is completely suppressed. The insurgent forces of Mayebara Issei have been routed and dispersed. Mayebara himself is taken prisoner, and thus the most important section of the rising has been quelled. Many of Mayebara's immediate followers were arrested with him, or soon after. Others have committed suicide, and the remainder are either in hiding, or have returned to their homes. Among the suicides is the notable case of four young men, who ascended to the top of the Mount Odate, and there sacrificed their own lives. A Judiciary Commission, presided over by Oki Takato, President of the Judicial Department, has been appointed to proceed to Kumamoto, there to hold a special sessions for the trial of the captured insurgents. Though there is every probability that the lives of Mayebara and the more noteworthy of his followers will be forfeited, yet it is thought that the Government, satisfied of its own strength, as evidenced in the prompt suppression of a dangerous and widespread revolt, will deal as leniently as it can with minor offenders. Mr. Oki Takato is no Jeffreys, and Japan will, at least this time, see no "bloody assize." Order is reported to have been restored in all the other unquiet provinces. Still, feudalism is dying hard in this Empire of the Sun.

The present state of the Silk market in Yokohama proves that the fears I expressed in July as to the probable result of the inflation and excitement then prevalent, and afterwards largely increased, had but too good foundation. Now all is dull; the sales are difficult, and prices are at least thirty per cent. lower than the highest point they reached. I know of foreign firms trying to sell on the spot at current prices silk which they bought weeks ago. What must be the result of such operations? It is not that "no mortal is wise at all times"; but that "some people never are wise." Meanwhile, some firms realised handsome premiums on their early speculations. Eighty thousand dollars is a sum probably within the figures of the gains of one house alone; and I hope it will not be diminished by later operations.

Mr. Hiram S. Wilkinson, lately first Interpreter and Vice Consul in H.B.M.'s Consulate, but now Acting Law Secretary, has initiated his promotion in a very peculiar way. In the case of *Beats v. the P. and O. Company*, the plaintiff sued for damage done to goods consigned to him and carried by the Company. As I find it impossible to state the case better or more concisely than it is put in the *Japan Mail*, I will take the liberty of borrowing its statement:—

The issues of fact were—1st. Was the damage sustained by the goods between the time when they were received and the time when they were delivered by the defendants? 2nd. Was the damage caused by fresh water? 3rd. The value of the goods. The issue of law was:—Presuming the goods to have been thus damaged while in charge of the defendants, were they responsible for it, seeing that they claim exemption from all such responsibility in virtue of a clause in their bills of lading thus exempting them? Now, after the evidence upon the issues of fact had been taken, the plaintiff's counsel was about to argue the issue of law, when Mr. Wilkinson interposed, suggesting that these three issues of fact should be left to the jury, and their verdict upon these taken, subject to such proceedings as the defendants might institute to determine the legal points. There could be no objection to this course, which was adopted, and, after the summing-up, the jury found all three issues in the plaintiff's favour. But Mr. Wilkinson

then, by a series of interrogatories, extracted from them the opinion that the damage was owing to the negligence of the Company, and having done this, gave a judgment reversing their decision in favour of the plaintiff, grounding it upon the law he had prevented the plaintiff's counsel from arguing. In other words, he first of all bars the question of law, and then applies the law to reverse the decision of the jury. We submit that this can be neither law, reason, common sense, nor justice, if only because it decides a case without hearing it.

Mr. Wilkinson gave the plaintiff permission—he could no less—to move within ten days to have the judgment set aside. But this is at best permission to appeal from Caesar to Caesar. Mr. Wilkinson is to be asked to reverse his own judgment, an anomaly which would have been prevented had he accepted the verdict of the jury, and left the company to its proper remedy, that of appeal. Here we have no Divisional Court, and indeed no such Court is possible. As the *Mail* points out, this was an additional reason for receiving the verdict; "Or, at the least, the plaintiff should have been allowed the benefit of the verdict, and the defendants might have been allowed permission to institute proceedings to reverse it. This would, at all events, have left the issue of law undetermined, and Mr. Wilkinson wholly unbiased by any previous ruling upon it.

In a cause heard before him on the 14th inst., Mr. Wilkinson had occasion, and I think good reason, to reprehend the action of Mr. F. V. Dickins, one of the counsel engaged, as unprofessional. The case requires a little explanation. A firm of brewers had employed a public accountant to keep their books and collect their accounts for a certain commission. Disputes arose, the business was taken out of the accountant's hands, and at last cross-actions were brought in the Provincial Court, and came on for hearing before Mr. Wilkinson. The first day's hearing was during last week; and at the close of the day's proceedings the unfinished case was adjourned till the 14th. Meanwhile the brewers had had enough of it, and one of them communicated to Mr. Dickins, the accountant's counsel, his desire to come to an arrangement. This communication was made direct, and not through the brewers' counsel. Mr. Dickins, in the course of negotiations, wrote a "strictly private" letter to one of the firm of brewers. A hitch occurred in the proposed "arrangement," and the cause came into Court again after all; when during an altercation between the counsel, the "strictly private" letter, greatly, no doubt, to Mr. Dickins's disgust and astonishment, was produced by the opposing counsel and read in Court. The fact of his having written this letter was held by the Court to have been "unprofessional" on the part of Mr. Dickins; and so, indeed, it appears. But when that gentleman, who is not blessed with the sweetest of tempers, and who might have been allowed to be a little "flabbergasted," I can find no better term, by the *exposé*, attempted to speak, Mr. Wilkinson, instead of listening to what he had to say—instead of allowing him to give an explanation of conduct which was certainly exceptional, but which might have admitted of some excuse—flew into a violent rage, raved, thumped his desk, and threatened, ordering Mr. Dickins to be seated half-a-dozen times, Mr. Dickins as many times flatly refusing. The learned counsel at last took off his wig and gown, and laid them on the table, protesting against not being allowed to speak. When asked by the Court, "Who are you talking to?" a question which savours more of one angry fish-lady's address to a rival than an interrogatory from a British judge to counsel, Mr. Dickins answered, "I say nothing to your Honour, I am not now an advocate but a private individual, and I address the public through the reporters." The scene as described to me by an eye-witness was most amusing, but most unseemly. In condemning what he thought unprofessional conduct on the part of a barrister practising in his Court, Mr. Wilkinson was undoubtedly right. In refusing to hear one word—what Mr. Dickins had to say might have been explanation, excuse, apology, who can tell?—he was decidedly wrong. Then he allowed Mr. Dickins to beard him again and again; and here, in my opinion, he was more in the wrong than ever. Having once stood on his dignity, and ordered the counsel to sit down or leave the Court, he should have resorted to the extreme power conferred on him to make himself obeyed. For the credit of British Courts in this extreme part of the world it is to be hoped that such conduct on the part of a British judge will be discountenanced by his superiors.

NAGASAKI.

The following are the dimensions and other interesting particulars of the new dock now being constructed at this port:—

Extreme length of dock	460 feet.
Depth	30 " 4 inches.
Interior	403 "
Breadth of lock.....	89 "
Shallowest part at lock sill.....	28 " at high water.
Width of flooring.....	34 "

40,000 cubic metres have been excavated, and 20,000 superior large granite stones will be used in the construction. When flooded the dock will contain 26,000 tons of water, which will be pumped out in eight hours by four centrifugal pumps worked by two engines now being constructed at the Akenoura works. The dock was commenced in March, 1874, and is expected to be finished in October, 1877. The last thing will be the deepening of the entrance, for which arrangements are already complete,

CHINA.

—
PEKING.

The *Celestial Empire* comments upon an Imperial decree published by the *Peking Gazette* of October 15. The Censor Hu Yu-kun has memorialised the Throne upon the trouble and anxiety caused by the operations of pseudo-religious secret societies, one evil effect of which is that the reputation of foreign missionaries suffers unjustly. The necromancy and jugglery which have been disturbing people's minds so seriously during the past few months—the tail-cutting, paper-men, and so forth—are attributed, and rightly, to seditious persons whose object is to stir up strife; but rumours have got abroad that no small proportion of the trouble is to be traced to both Catholic and Protestant converts. It is well-known, as we have already intimated, that many persons connected with the Hwuyis have passed themselves off as Christians in order to besmirch true converts with their own bad repute; and it is satisfactory to find that the matter has been taken up by the Censorate. The Imperial decree, in reply, orders all Governors and Viceroy to issue proclamations calling on the people to pursue their several avocations in a quiet and orderly manner, and to pay no heed to delusive tales; halting the members of pseudo religious sects, whenever or wherever found, before the authorities, who will punish them with the utmost rigour of the law. "The ways of evil-doers such as these are wily and deep-laid, and they frequently profess connection with a [foreign] religious establishment by way of pretext for their evil doings. The authorities will nevertheless punish them as the law requires, and not suffer themselves to be imposed upon by their devices." The successive dynasties of China have suffered too much from the machinations of secret societies in times past to permit the present Government to relax its watchfulness. The excitement, however, appears to be dying out. Had war been declared, the entire country would probably have burst into rebellion from Manchuria to the Bay of Yulin; and it seems quite on the cards that in the event of any foreign hostilities, the smouldering disaffection may even yet ignite. But we do not believe there is any chance of rebellion while the foreign relations of the country are peaceable.

The *North China Herald* refers to a memorial by the Governor-General of the two Kwang, in the *Gazette* of Oct. 18, as being interesting, both as connected with the question of coolie emigration and also as constituting the first public reference to the Treaty and Convention concluded with Peru in 1874, and ratified a year ago at Tientsin. The "summary execution" of the crimps heretofore employed in recruiting victims for the barracones of Macao was provided for by special enactment passed in 1866; but the severity of this mode of procedure appears to have been relaxed some years later, when the kidnapping traffic had died away in consequence of the measures taken to enforce its abolition at Macao. The late Governor-General Ying Han, during his brief tenure of office at Canton, applied for permission to reintroduce the summary system of procedure in the case of "kidnappers," on learning that the Treaty with Peru had been concluded; but his successor, the present Governor-General, now gives it as his opinion that the ordinary process of law is quite sufficient for the purpose of dealing with any cases of the kind that may crop up; adding, somewhat significantly, that notwithstanding the conclusion of the Peruvian treaty, no emigration operations have been as yet undertaken in Kwantung.

It is said that the German Minister has instructed the German Consuls at all the Treaty ports not to consent to any limitation of *lekin* in regard to foreign settlements; and so to avoid recognising any right to levy it in the interior.

SHANGHAI.

The present mail brings advices from this port to the 17th November; the P. and O. mail from London Sept. 29 was received on the 11th November. The *North China Herald* contains the following summary of news:—

The terms arranged by Mr. Mayers with the Viceroy of Nanking have been accepted by the Directors of the Woosung Railway, so we presume the line will very shortly be reopened. It is to be regretted that the ownership is not retained in English hands, but purchase seems to have been made an indispensable condition both by Li Hung-chang and the local authorities. What the latter would have liked, in fact, was to purchase the Railway out and out, and remove it from its present site, if not altogether from the face of Chinese soil; and they would have been willing to pay very liberally for the unconditional surrender. But such a conclusion would have been as far as possible from the object of the promoters. Their desire was not to lay down certain stock in order to sell at a profit, but to construct a specimen railway which should convince the Chinese of the value of steam-carriage. The extreme hostility of the officials to innovation made it almost hopeless that this object would be attained with their open assent; but it seemed possible that if a line could be made and trains run upon it for a while before their eyes, they might be persuaded to withdraw their opposi-

tion and accept the accomplished fact. In a measure, this result has been attained by the recent agreement. The working of the line is assured for a year, and the shareholders will be fully reimbursed for their outlay. We repeat, that it would have been more satisfactory if the ownership could have been retained, as there would then have been less doubt as to the future fortunes of the enterprise; but the circumstances were hardly such as to justify the British Minister in dictating terms; and purchase was the only basis on which the Chinese would listen to a compromise. The argument has been advanced that the shareholders had a right to do what they chose on their own land; and that argument would be tenable if the owners of the racecourse chose to lay down a railway within their enclosure. But it is not tenable in the case of a line which crosses public roads and canals. The right of the Government comes in directly a public highway is in question, and hence the difficulty of the Company's position. What Sir Thomas Wade could do, was to express a cogent wish for the continuance of the undertaking, and so persuade the Central Government to express themselves in its favour. He had, perhaps, a not altogether unwilling listener in Li Hung-chang, who seems to be the one man in China—the one man, at any rate, in a position of influence—who appreciates the value of foreign inventions, and is willing to see them employed. But his willingness is conditional on their being in Chinese hands; and he seems to have adhered firmly to this principle in respect of the Woosung Railway. With this condition, he memorialised the Central Government to depute two officials to accompany Mr. Mayers to Nanking, and assist him in coming to an understanding with Shen Pao-chen. The matter was regarded as one so much within the local jurisdiction of the Viceroy that this procedure seems to have been preferred to the direct arrangement of terms at Peking.

Mr. Mayers's task, then, was to secure for the railway a lease of life; and a year was the longest term to which the Viceroy could be brought to assent. Regarding the purchase money he was comparatively easy. He would, as we have said before, have been willing to pay a large sum to buy up and abolish the line. And under the actual circumstances, though he declined to recognise the right of the Company to make a profit out of what he regarded as an illegal undertaking, he was not indisposed to pay a price which would include a fair return on the money of the shareholders from the time of its subscription. It was eventually agreed to leave the exact determination of the sum to four arbitrators, of whom two are to be chosen by the Taoutai of Shanghai, and two by H.B.M.'s Consul. Payment is to be made in four quarterly instalments, the last at the expiry of the twelve months during which the line is to be worked by its present managers; and after which it passes into the uncontrolled possession of the Chinese. This, then, is the present condition of affairs. A railway has actually been constructed on Chinese soil, and the recognition of the Government obtained to its temporary working. What will be its future fortunes must be a matter of conjecture. The disposition of the present Viceroy seems unfavourable to the enterprise; he is conservative, and he is irritated at what he considers a slight upon his administration, in the construction of the line without his consent. But it may be hoped that his hostility will subside with time, and that the influences which are working in favour of foreign inventions will secure the permanence of the undertaking, after it has passed into Chinese possession.

The North-China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society held the first meeting of the season at their Rooms on the 10th Nov., when a paper by Mr. T. W. Kingsmill, on "The Probable Correlation of Recent Geological Changes in Central and Eastern Asia, with the Tribal Migrations of Antiquity" was read. There was a meagre attendance, a quorum of members not being present. Mr. Medhurst, H.B.M.'s Consul, the president of the society, occupied the chair. Mr. Kingsmill treated his subject in an exhaustive manner, the paper abounding in useful information, and evincing proof of great study and research in its compilation. When Mr. Kingsmill concluded he was awarded a hearty vote of thanks; and the President and Dr. Macgowan, each in a few well-chosen remarks, regretted that there were not more geologists present to appreciate the able paper which had been read. At the suggestion of Dr. Macgowan, the secretary was requested, on the motion of the Chairman, to write to Dr. S. Wells Williams, who is about to leave China after a residence here of over forty years, on behalf of the Society, expressive of the high appreciation in which his talents and long services were held, and wishing him happiness and prosperity in his native land. The Chairman expressed regret at there not being a quorum present, which delayed the election of a number of gentlemen who wished to become members of the society, and expressed a hope that a similar difficulty would not be experienced at the next meeting.

The Temperance Society's entertainment on the 11th November was numerously attended, several of the most prominent residents in the Settlements being among the audience. There was also an improvement in the quality of the entertainment, and, if the standard now attained is kept up, the popularity of the Temperance Hall will be much enhanced, and the fortnightly gatherings looked forward to with interest and pleasure. The great feature of the entertainment was an address by Dr. S. Wells Williams, who, after a residence of forty years in China,

is about to retire to his native land. Dr. Williams congratulated the society on the advancement made since the inauguration of the temperance movement in the Shantung-road Chapel, warned his hearers against the "seductive cocktail," and attributed the good health he had enjoyed during his long residence in China to his having abstained from all ardent spirits.

The new paddle steamer *Kiang Kuan*, the first of a line now being built for the C.M.S.N. Company, to trade on the Yangtsze, was taken on a trial trip on Nov. 11. By invitation of the assistant manager of the Company, a party of about fifty ladies and gentlemen, beside a large number of Chinese officials of various grades, joined in the excursion. An excellent champagne breakfast was provided, after which toasts were proposed, healths drunk, and speeches made, both by Chinese and foreigners. Everything connected with the steamer went off successfully, and the trip was much enjoyed.

The customary auction of race ponies, griffins and hacks has taken place at the Shanghai Horse Bazaar, Mr. H. Meller being the auctioneer. Fifty-nine lots were submitted, but there was only a limited attendance of buyers; prices consequently ruled low generally, and for many of the lots the reserve prices were not touched, while some others were bought in. The highest figure reached in a *bond fide* sale was Tls. 280, for which sum Tirailleur, the winner of the Maiden Stakes at the recent meeting, changed hands; while Crusader, winner of the Tirailleur Cup on the off-day, was sold at the reserve price of Tls. 100.

A meeting of shareholders in the China and Japan Marine Insurance Company was held on the 10th Nov. The accounts showed that 90 per cent. of the paid-up capital had been already returned to the shareholders; and the remaining 10 per cent. is available for immediate payment. It was explained that another 5 per cent. might probably be paid in December. The present liquidators retire; and Mr. Dunn was appointed to continue the liquidation, under the supervision of a committee, consisting of Messrs. Skelly and Groom.

We understand that the Tsung-li Yamen have addressed a circular to the Foreign Legations, in pursuance of Clause VI. of the trade section of the Chefoo Agreement, regarding the exemption of imports from *lekin* within the foreign settlements; and that the Ministers have replied, reserving all rights heretofore understood or claimed, pending decision of the question.

A meeting of members of the Skating Club has been held. Dr. Henderson, Messrs. Wheelock, Cory, Gundry, and Wyatt were elected a committee for the ensuing season. Mr. Boomer being unable to continue to act as hon. sec. and treasurer, Mr. Wyatt consented to take the office. It is understood that the club will be carried on on the same footing as last year, and the committee will have an early meeting to arrange about the erection of a rink.

We regret to hear of the wreck of H.B.M.'s gunboat *Lapwing* on one of the Miaotao Islands, in the Gulf of Pechili, on the night of the 11th Nov. The *Mosquito*, which was lying at Chefoo at the time, went out on the 13th Nov. to her assistance. No lives are lost, and there seems just a chance that the vessel may be got off. We have no details of the accident.

The Hoppo of Cantou has arrived here by the steamer *Amoy*, en route for Peking, whither he retires for one hundred days in consequence of the death of his mother. We understand that he was very friendly with the officers of the steamer, and that his courtesy in one instance took the form of a gift of a gold watch and chain.

The first prize of \$16,000 in the November drawing of the Manila lottery has come to Shanghai, ticket No. 9,500 winning it. Mr. W. H. Carr, Japanese postal agent, and Mr. Graham, an engineer on board the *Plymouth Rock*, are the holders of the winning ticket, on joint account.

The Manila quartermaster who murdered his shipmate by stabbing him, in Bamboo Town, Hongkew, some months ago, and who has since been confined in the British gaol, awaiting shipment to Manila, was, on the 13th November, put on board the Spanish vessel *Lily*, for transport to his destination.

It is reported that Messrs. Chun Patnan and Sit Ming Cook, of the China Merchants' Steamship Company, have received intimation from the Tsung-li Yamen that they have been appointed Consul-General and Vice Consul-General for China at the port of San Francisco. Other appointments of a similar nature are said to be pending.

A six-oared gig race took place on the 10th Nov. on the river, between crews chosen from H.B.M. *Charybdis*, and the U.S. corvette *Alert*. They started from the Naval Yard, and finished at the Police Hulk, the *Alert* crew winning by a minute. The race was for \$50 aside.

It is reported that the Taoutai of Shanghai will leave at the beginning of the Chinese new year, resigning on account of urgent private affairs.

The Volunteer Rifle Meeting has been held during the week, and has proved successful; there were a large number of competitors, and the shooting was good.

The American corvette *Ashuelot* arrived on the 13th Nov., and anchored off the Custom-house jetty.

- Sir T. F. Wade and Mr. Hillier arrived on the 15th November by the steamer *Shantung*.

Messrs. Bissell and Co. report as follows upon the Share Market :-

The business reported during the week has been small, with little change in rates. We quote Yangtze shares Tls. 10 lower. H. and S. Bank: One transaction is reported at former rates, 20 per cent. premium and exchange 74. The market is quiet. S.S.N. Co.: After the issue of our last report, there was a sale at Tls. 65, but rates have since recovered to Tls. 66. There have been sales at Tls. 69 and 70 for 31st January. Shanghai Dock Co.: A sale is reported at Tls. 210. Shanghai Gas Co.: Shares have changed hands at Tls. 140. Yangtze Insurance Association: A sale was reported at Tls. 620. There are buyers at this rate. Hong Kong Fire Insurance Co.: Shares were inquired for at \$565. China Fire Insurance Co.: A number of shares changed hands at \$165 and exchange 74, and there are buyers at this rate.

The *Celestial Empire* supplies the subjoined items of intelligence :-

Our private letters from Tientsin are painful to read. The provinces of Chihli to the southward and westward is now beginning to feel the horrors of famine, and although really great efforts have been made by the Government to avert a general distress as much as possible, very many populous districts have had no relief, and are now fast coming to the end of their scanty stocks of food. No help can now be given to the thousands of miserable creatures already in extremity. The missionaries in Tientsin, of all creeds, say the accounts they have from Shantung are heartrending. Two missionary gentlemen give a cruelly harrowing account of a visit they have lately paid to a Christian family in Shantung well known to them. They found both man and wife horribly changed, black and incapable from privation. The unfortunate couple said they were about to take poison, as neither work nor food could be obtained; and, awful to relate—the day before they had buried their two children alive, as the poor little creatures were starving! In large and formerly fairly prosperous districts the drought of this year was never broken by rain, and the second crop failed like the first crop. No cereals or fruit or vegetables could be grown. The suffering people have eaten all the leaves off the trees, have lived on tree-bark and roots, and now that the winter has begun the poor famine-stricken wretches are dying fast from starvation and cold. No help can come, and those who die first are to be envied. We are told that the appearance of the unfortunate creatures is sad to see. The men and women have become shrivelled and black. The children are pot-bellied, silent, sullen, and with scarcely strength to crawl about. The mortality will be dreadful, and some districts will be depopulated. It was thought that in Chihli the second crop would give three-quarters of an average yield. In many places the crop was good, but in others there was no yield at all. We are assured that the second crop, taking the whole province into consideration, will be perhaps one-third, certainly less than half, an average.

The enormous rise in silk since June has had another and less happy result than that of giving handsome fortunes to foreign and Chinese merchants. The Chinese weavers and silk manufacturers are said to be suffering severely, for their trade has been almost entirely killed. It is not so much that the price of the manufactured stuff has risen so high as to check consumption and place it out of the power of all save the wealthiest to purchase silk and satin jackets, there has been absolutely no raw material to work with, and the weavers have lost their occupation. It has been impossible to obtain raw silk; every bale of it almost, including all the coarse Chincums, which are principally used in native looms, having been placed on the Shanghai market for export. The consequence is that manufacturers at Nanking, Soochow, and elsewhere have simply been compelled to close their establishments; many of them have failed, and great distress exists among the weavers who have been thus suddenly thrown out of work.

The gunboats *Alpha* and *Beta* left for Tientsin on the 10th Nov., it being desirable that they arrive at their destination as early as possible.

NINGPO.

The *North China Daily News* reports that some correspondence has been exchanged between the American and the Chinese officials at Ningpo, with reference to a curious incident which took place during the stay of the U. S. gunboat *Alert* at that port. The commander of the *Alert*, whilst pulling in his gig, past a Chinese steam gunboat lying in the river, was motioned to by an armed sentry at the gangway, who, not content with thus repelling an imaginary intention to visit the ship, actually raised his rifle and took aim at the American officer. What explanation may have been given of this extraordinary conduct we have not learnt; but it is quite characteristic of the churlish indifference to the ordinary prescriptions of international courtesy which is affected by Chinese officials. The high authorities at Peking, the *News* is informed, have within the last few months declined to claim for the vessels composing the Chinese steam navy any such position as that assigned to the vessels of war of all other nations, and this being the case, such eccentricities as that of the sentry at Ningpo may perhaps not appear remarkable. At the same time, the occurrence is one that ought not to be passed over.

FOOCHOW.

The subjoined items of intelligence are from the *Foochow Herald*:

In connection with the destruction of the Methodist Mission Chapel at Yen-ping-foo, last year, we understand that the United States Consul at this port has obtained a very satisfactory settlement of the affair. The authorities here have (after almost a year of constant pressure) caused the chapel to be rebuilt by the people of that city, and have collected from the rioters, and paid over to the Consul, for account of the Mission, \$200, for books and other property destroyed; they have likewise issued (by request of the Consul) a very satisfactory proclamation, clearly setting forth the right of foreigners, whether merchants or missionaries, to travel, acquire property, and reside in the interior. An open letter has been handed to the Consul, to be sent by one of the native preachers to the Prefect at Yen-ping, ordering that official to deliver the reconstructed chapel to the said preacher, and to protect him in the possession of it. In addition to this, they have promised to legalise a perpetual lease of the land on which the chapel stands, which has been bought by the Mission. We have no doubt that they will carry out this promise—as they have already done in the case of property bought at Shao Wu foo by the American Board Mission.

We are glad to report that the newly-constructed pilot-boat *Maree*, the mishap to which was reported in our last issue, has been saved. It appears she was stranded on the wreck of the *Childers*, through the gross carelessness of the Chinese lowdah in charge, the weather at the time having been everything that could be desired, the wind being fair, and the accident happening in broad daylight. The position of the *Childers* is so well known that it is almost impossible to understand how an experienced lowdah could make any mistake with regard to it, especially under the above circumstances.

A daring burglary has been committed in the Foreign Settlement, on the premises occupied by Mr. Lin Kok-cheng, a Chinese clerk in the Imperial Maritime Customs. The thieves appear to have effected an entrance through one of the partition walls of the house, and to have stolen therefrom clothing to the value of about \$200.

We understand that Ting Futai's application for permission to retire from his present office as Governor of this Province has been refused; his Excellency has received only one month's sick leave, and a present of four taels weight of ginseng from the Emperor. We therefore trust that Ting will continue, with renewed energy, to reform the provincial administration.

A few days since a sharp skirmish took place between a party of lekin men and some smugglers, near the Fives Court, in which several shots were fired. Had there been any passers-by in the immediate vicinity the consequences might have been fatal.

HONG KONG.

Dates extend to the 23rd Nov.; the French mail from London Oct. 6 arrived out on the 16th Nov., and the following P. and O. mail of Oct. 13 was received on the 19th Nov. The *Overland China Mail* supplies the following items of intelligence:—

A very numerously attended public meeting has been held in regard to the *C. O. Whitmore* case. Resolutions were passed expressing indignation at the cruelties committed on board the vessel, deplored that the treaty relations between the United States and England prevented the offenders from being brought to justice, and urged the Governor to make representations in respect to the case to the home authorities. His Excellency has since expressed his concurrence with the views of the meeting, and stated that he had already communicated with the home Government on the matter. Peabody having given up command of the vessel, she sailed for Manila on Nov. 20.

It is stated that the prospectus for the formation of another Marine Insurance Company by the Chinese is about to be issued.

The Secretary of the Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock Company, Mr. David Gillies, has been committed for trial on a charge of causing the death of a Chinaman. The man died from a ruptured spleen, and the Chinese witnesses state that he was kicked on the abdomen by Mr. Gillies; but this is denied by the latter. The man's spleen was four times its proper size.

Amongst the passengers who have arrived and departed by the *Arratoon Apear*, our readers must have observed the name of the Armenian Prelate, Archbishop Gregoris. The Right Reverend gentleman has come on as far as this place as a traveller, to know and see something more of the Chinese and Chinese cities than he has done in Penang and Singapore. The few Armenian residents at this port possessing no special place of worship, the prelate has been unable to hold any service, but the other afternoon he read prayers (of course in the Armenian language) over the grave of S. A. Seth, at the Protestant Cemetery, as the tombstone was being put up. The Right Reverend Father, in his full robe, and with a hat of a peak shape, presented a sight never seen hitherto in this part of the world. Though an archbishop under whose see are the Armenian churches in India and Persia, he is only forty-two years old, and has made a most favourable impression on his few resident countrymen, to

whom he made a pleasant address on Sunday last, at the residence of Mr. C. P. Chater.

We learn that the prospectus for the formation of another Marine Insurance Company by the Chinese will be shortly issued. The one started under the auspices of the China Merchants Steamship Company prospers so well that it is thought a sufficiently lucrative business can be obtained for an additional company.

We regret to learn of the death of Inspector Dodds. The deceased had been in a very low state of health for some time, but it was not expected that he would have succumbed so suddenly. He was one of the Scotch contingent, and rose from the ranks. This seems an unfortunate year with the police, as this is the third inspector who had died since January.

The birthday of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales was not distinguished by any great show of bunting or booming of great guns in this distant part of his future realm. Had it not been for the standard which was hoisted on board H.M.S. *Victor Emmanuel*, and an extra ensign or two on the gunboats in port, one would almost have been led to believe that the Naval Authorities had forgotten the day. The vessels of the Detached Squadron had only the usual national flag at the peak.

CANTON.

A serious fire has taken place at Fatshan, destroying over one hundred shops. It commenced about nine o'clock on the night of the 14th November, and was not put out till day dawn on the 15th. Neither the origin of the fire nor the amount of damage had been ascertained when the mail left.

The Canton authorities are determined to put down the Wai-sing lottery in that city with a high hand. It is a well-known fact that in spite of the closing of the lottery establishments in Canton a deal of gambling is still carried on by means of the native post-offices. The stakes are enclosed in envelopes and sent over to Macao, and the tickets are brought back in the same way. The Viceroy has determined to put a stop to this practice, and it is said that he intends to adopt the extraordinary measure of examining the native post-offices and opening the letters in order to discover the gamblers.

The Hoppo of Canton, being in mourning for his mother, does not, says the *Shanghai Courier*, receive any visitors, save those who call upon official business. To such, however, he is at home. He is, of course unshaved, and is clad in coarse white hempen garments from head to foot. He sits upon a very low stool or dais, if not upon the ground itself, and greets such callers as are admitted with a very low obeisance. In conversation with a friend of ours this morning he described the Imperial audience accorded to him in Peking some months ago, before he started for Canton. The Empress Dowager remarked upon the fact that he was about to fill a post where he would probably come a good deal in contact with foreigners, and warned him to be careful. "Whatever you do," said her Imperial Majesty, "let your policy be always conciliatory, and do not embroil yourself with Western officials." The Hoppo appears a man of some tact and discrimination.

PHILIPPINE ISLANDS.

MANILA.

The *Straits Times* contains an account of the cruise of the German corvette *Hertha* to Borneo and the Philippines, in March and April last. Her people appeared to be pleased with their visit to Labuan; and they afterwards paid a visit to the German trading post at Sandakan Bay, where enterprising traders had established their head-quarters on an artificial island containing about a dozen houses and huts, and guarded by loaded cannon against any possible treachery of the natives. They stated that British intervention prevented a blockade of the Bornean coasts by the Spaniards. The corvette was, however, warned off from communicating with the natives of Sooloo, which was under blockade by a Spanish squadron. An invitation to spend a couple of days in the company of the Spanish officers there was declined because the *Hertha* was short of coal. The *Hertha*'s people landed on several islets on her voyage to Zooloo, but the islanders took them for Spaniards, and fled from their miserable huts, leaving all their property behind. Although none of their belongings were touched these poor people could not be made more truthful.

The firm of Russell and Sturgis has decided to proceed with a liquidation of its affairs, but the creditors failed to agree to the terms of a settlement proposed to them at a meeting held at Manila on the 27th Oct. An advertisement afterwards appeared in which those creditors who approved of the settlement proposed were invited to send in their names either to the office of the firm or to the offices of the three Manila daily papers.

On the 11th Oct. a fire broke out in the town of Bulan, in the province of Albay, which reduced twelve houses to ashes. In the province of Cagayan, on the 7th Oct., a house was also destroyed by fire, on which occasion a woman perished in the flames.

On the 13th Oct. a flash of lightning struck a house in the island of Negros, killing instantaneously three persons and consuming the house.

JAVA.

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BATAVIA.

The *Straits Times* translates from the Batavia newspapers the subjoined items of news :—

Regarding the war in Atchin official advices state that General Diemont assumed the civil and military command there on the 6th November. On the following day he despatched a company of infantry from Kotta Rajah and another company from Edi to Simpang Olim to aid Tuku Muda Ang Rasa, the Rajah of Passi, an ally of the N.I. Government, who, assisted by a Dutch naval force, had begun operations against Simpang Olim. Before the arrival of the troops the Rajah and his forces had taken Lasson and six forts. The Simpang Olimmers offered resistance, and wounded several of the Rajah's people. At Atchin the state of health amongst the troops was unfavourable, owing to bad weather. The commanding officer announces the arrival of 141 Chinese coolies from Penang, and their being set to work road making. The state of health amongst the coolies was very satisfactory, and they were satisfied with their rations and quarters. The following private telegram has been received at Penang :—"Dutch taken Simpan Olim." Simpan Olim, according to native accounts, was one of the greatest strongholds of the Atchinese, indeed, held by them to be unassailable, and its capture will no doubt go a long way to hasten the termination of hostilities.

The *Java Bode* of the 18th Nov. states that Dr. Alken, a Government medical officer, has for some months been making experiments with Gurjon oil on lepers in the Leper hospital at Pelatungan in Netherlands India, and has obtained favourable results therefrom.

Straits Settlements.

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SINGAPORE.

The present P. and O. mail brings advices from this port to the 30th November; the French mail from London 20th Oct. was received on the 20th Nov., and the following P. and O. mail of 27th Oct. arrived out on the 27th November. We take the following items of intelligence from the *Straits Times*:—

The principal political event which has occurred has been a meeting of the chiefs of the nine States who from time to time have given us so much trouble. The meeting was held at Government House, and the chiefs on their arrival were received by a guard of honour. Sir William Jervois addressed them on the desirability of peace, and assured them that the only anxiety of the British Government in regard to their States was the honest one of advancing the liberty and assisting in the well-being of their people. A long consultation ensued, in which it was decided that in future all differences among themselves should be arbitrated upon by reference to the Maharajah of Johore, and a paper, was signed to that effect, embodying also other promises. The resolution arrived at was communicated on the next day after the meeting of the Legislative Council. The nature of the arrangement has been the subject of much comment; its terms are looked upon as being unsatisfactory; and the feeling is general that the Maharajah of Johore has been placed thereby in a false position.

A collision occurred on Nov. 16 between H.M.'s gunboat *Magpie* and the Italian barque *Baccioia*. The *Baccioia* was considerably damaged, though the hulls of the vessels never touched each other, and was towed into this port by the *Magpie*. The matter was referred to arbitration—the arbitrators for the *Magpie* being Captain Ellis, the Master Attendant, and Lieutenant Boldero, of H.M.S. *Juno*; those for the *Baccioia*, Mr. Baxter, Lloyd's Surveyor, and Captain Gaggino, of an Italian vessel. It was alleged on behalf of the *Magpie* that the accident was unavoidable, and the gunboat would have cleared the *Baccioia* if the quarter-boat of the latter vessel had not effectively screened her starboard bow light, and that the close proximity of the vessel was only discerned owing to a flash of lightning. The arbitrators were unable to agree; and the matter was referred to Captain Kellock as umpire. It may be inferred from the decision that the *Magpie* could not have been much to blame for the collision, as each side pays its own damages, and if there were faults, they were on both sides.

Sultan Abdullah and the chiefs who are here charged with complicity in the murder of Mr. Birch will, it is understood, be shortly placed upon their trial, though before what tribunal is only a matter of surmise. It is understood, however, that the trial of two, Maharajah Lela and Datu Sagor, will be first proceeded with, and Laroot, it is believed, is the place in which it is to be held. The names of Mr. Davidson and Mr. Maxwell have been mentioned as those appointed to take part in the trial, but whether in a strictly judicial capacity, or as watching the case in the interests of the Government, is not known publicly. No doubt, considerable difficulties beset the situation, more especially in the instance of Sultan Abdullah, and it is to be hoped the Government will satisfy itself that the Court before which the

accused will be put upon their trial will have unquestionable jurisdiction. In the meantime, some of the chiefs are lodged in the Civil Jail, while Abdullah and others enjoy a kind of *privilege*, though under supervision.

The meetings of the Legislative Council which have been held have been devoid of interest, and except that some Bills have been advanced a stage no other matters of public interest have been dealt with. A conversation took place in regard to the publication of the new edition of the ordinances of the colony, of which we are in sore need, but the Attorney-General considered that its publication should be postponed.

The Singapore Rifle Association have held their twenty-second competition at the race-course rifle range, each competitor having five shots at 200 and five at 400 yards. There were only fifteen competitors. The following were awarded prizes in the order named :—

	200	400	Total
	yds.	yds.	pts.
Private G. S. Reutens, S.V.C. ...	16	17	33
Sergt.-Major J. Pendrip, 80th Regiment	17	15	32
Sergt.-Major C. Phillips, S.V.C. ...	17	14	31
M. Instructor N. Jones, 80th Regiment	15	15	30
Private J. J. Jambu, S.V.C. ...	14	15	29
Corporal R. Jambu, S.V.C. ...	15	14	29

The volunteers used the Snider, and the military the Martini-Henry rifle.

On numerous occasions welcome scraps of intelligence have reached us that the Atchin war is likely to be ended; but so far as news from the public organs of the Dutch is concerned the war may be carried on till Doomsday, so far as any likelihood of a termination seems apparent. Two English officers have left for the scene of hostilities, and a benefit to humanity would be conferred if any friendly intervention could be brought to bear upon the combatants. In the meantime the squalor of the native troops employed by the Dutch is being brought continually before our eyes on board the transport ships which call in our harbour.

The Regent of Siam, with a large retinue, and accompanied by the British Vice Consul at Bangkok, is expected to arrive here in a few days on his way to the Delhi Durbar. Preparations are being made for his reception, which we hope will please his Highness and party.

*The weather lately has been cool and refreshing, and we have had constant rains and heavy thunder storms.

Market Reports.

(For dates see first page.)

IMPORTS.

YOKOHAMA.—The Import market had remained very depressed, especially as regards Yarns, business in which was quite at a standstill. Low qualities of Shirtings were very difficult of sale, and even for the better makes the demand had been of a trivial character. Indigo Shirtings and Cotton Satteens were firm, but Velvets and Turkey Reds were neglected. In Woollens best Italian Cloth was easily saleable, and Blankets of certain weights were more asked for. The inquiry for Mousselines had subsided, and was maintained only for special colours. Business in metals since last Circular had been unimportant, but quotations had been fully maintained for the few transactions reported.

CHIEFOO.—Messrs. Wilson, Cornabò, and Co.'s Circular says :—Our last was dated 10th ult., and we now beg to continue our market advices. Cotton Goods: Plain fabrics have been saleable at quotations, but for fancy goods there has been no inquiry. Metals: Stocks both of iron and lead are very light, and sales can readily be made, but the prices offered are barely the equivalent of Shanghai values.

HANKOW.—The market had continued to be very dull during the fortnight, the abundant Cotton crop, together with the badness of trade in the country, rendering natives very indifferent to foreign goods.

CHINKIANG.—Messrs. Spencer and Wolff write on the 15th Nov.:—During the period that has elapsed since our last report the market for Piece Goods has assumed a far more favourable aspect, dealers showing increased desire to operate in certain makes of cloth, as shown below. The business passing continues small, but is satisfactory, inasmuch as rates have advanced in sympathy with the improved tone of advices from Shanghai. Grey Shirtings: Sales have been again confined to the better class of \$4 lbs. goods at the following rates :—Red Pheasants, Tls. 1.70 to 1.74 per piece; Pillar, Tls. 1.71 per piece; Stewart Thomson's A.L, Tls. 1.72 to 1.73 per piece, and various other chops of similar cloth at Tls. 1.68 to 1.75 per piece. T-Cloths: Some small lots of good 7 lbs. Mexicos have found buyers at Tls. 1.33 to 1.37 per piece, but for other qualities the demand is still very sluggish. English Drills: But few sales are reported: we quote 14lbs. Tls. 1.95 to 2.02 per piece, and 15lbs. Tls. 1.98 to 2.06 per piece.

SHANGHAI.—Owing to advancing costs telegraphed from producing markets some improvement had occurred in piece goods during the week, especially in the medium and better classes of 8-4 lbs. Grey Shirtings, which had been in some demand from Tls. 1.70 to 1.90 per piece, beyond which it was, however, impossible to sell even "crack" makes; 6 lbs. and 7 lbs. were still rather neglected, but in heavy cloth a little had been doing at Tls. 1.95 to 2.18 per piece, 9-12 lbs. to Tls. 2.30 to 2.35 per piece for 10 lbs. goods. T-Cloths at the low prices ruling had attracted the attention of buyers, and some considerable sales from one or two hands are reported of good 7 lbs. Mexican qualities at Tls. 1.17½ per piece; at the close there were few sellers, unless at a

considerable advance; 6 lbs. and 7 lbs. common had also improved in value, and were quoted 2 to 4 candareens higher. In White Shirtings there had been small sales at some advance. Drills: About 18,000 pieces changed hands at Tls. 1.92½ to 1.95 per piece 14 lbs. and 15 lbs. English, for which Tls. 2 advance was asked at the close. Fancy Cottons: Demand quiet, prices unchanged. Woollens: In better demand for Szechuan, and with considerably enhanced costs in production, reported by telegraph, holders were firmer, and prices at public auction also improved. There has been no improvement in Metals. Speculators had refrained from operating, and quotations were influenced solely by the purchases of consumers, which had been scarcely sufficient to cause any important alterations in values.

HONG KONG.—The market had been dull throughout the fortnight, and a declining tendency prevailed at the close. Messrs. Olyphant and Co.'s Circular says:—Cotton Yarn : Nos. 16 to 24 are in good request, and in some cases rather better offers have been obtained, as holders are firm and stocks small. Nos. 28 to 32 meet with an occasional inquiry, but Nos. 38 to 42 are altogether neglected. Piece Goods : There has been a slight increase in the settlements of staple goods and standard chaps of 8.4 lb. Grey Shirtings are still wanted at former valuations. White Shirtings are neglected. There is nothing new to report about Drills, as prices are unchanged, and no sales have been made in the past week. Woollens : Scarlet Camlets are wanted at better values, and Lastings maintain their position, owing to the scarcity of supplies. Ready parcels of Long Ells will meet with quick sale at higher prices. Blankets are very firmly held, and Spanish Stripes are in improved demand. Metals : Stocks of Lead are very small, and higher prices are now being demanded. Soft Tin Plates command \$6, and hard \$5.80 per box. Tin is rather higher, owing to advices from the Straits. Quicksilver has been considerably speculated in at fluctuating rates ; the highest point touched was \$70 per picul, but at the close the market is weak at \$60 to 80.50. Coals : The only arrivals have been 1,900 tons of Australian, and the sales have been 827 tons of Cardiff at 40s. per ton to arrive, and 2,900 tons of Australian at \$9 per ton, ex ship. Cardiff and soft Australian are in demand, and the market is very firm at the close, as advices have been received from Shanghai of a marked improvement there.

CANTON.—The demand had been quiet. Quotations were:—Lead, W.B. \$8.35 to 8.96, L.B. \$8.75 to 8.80; Quicksilver, \$90 to 91.

SINGAPORE.—The market for Manchester Goods had not shown much activity, although importers had been inclined to force sales by lowering rates, in order to secure the advantage of remitting at the present high rates of sterling exchange. There had been a fair demand for a few of the principal staples, and a moderate business had been done. The principal items reported are 11,000 pieces Grey Shirtings, 20,000 pieces T-Cloths, 24,000 pieces White Shirtings, 75 cases White Cambrics, 20 cases White Figured Shirtings, 160 bales Grey Yarn, 100 bales T. R. Yarn, 35 bales Coloured Yarns.

PENANG.—The market generally had continued quiet. Transactions had been on a limited scale, and prices had shown a downward tendency, consequent upon the advance in exchange.

EXPORTS.

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TEA.

YOKOHAMA.—Business had been greatly restricted during the period since the date of last report, settlements amounting to 2,700 piculs, comprising all classes. Arrivals had been on a fair scale, and stocks increasing; in consequence, prices were rather easier, and native holders were more willing to meet offers.

SHANGHAI.—Black: A fair total of business had been done during the week, settlements aggregating 8,000 chests. Nearly all the business was done in the early part of the week by one house; since then there had been a few trifling transactions, but the market closed weak for all teas at over Tls. 14. Up to this price, or for tea that lay down in London at about 9d., there was still some demand. In Hankow there had not been a single settlement during the fortnight, the few arrivals having all been forwarded to this market, and the supply being about exhausted. Green: Teas had again been active, market settlements for the week reaching 22,500 half chests, at an advance on fine teas of about one tael on prices current at the beginning of the month. These kinds were getting very scarce, and tea-men were very strong for the few chops still on offer.

FOOCHOW.—Messrs. Olyphant and Co.'s Circular says:—The tone of the Tea market has been quieter during the fortnight, settlements of Congou being 24,781 chests only. A large proportion is of low to common grades, for which kinda slightly easier rates have been accepted, though quotations can hardly be changed as yet. Siftings and broken leafs have declined about half-a-tael, but good common and flavoury sorts being in comparatively limited supply remain very firm. Further arrivals are 13,853 chests, against 14,910 chests for corresponding interval last year. Souchongs are without change; settlements 1,664 chests at Tls. 14.05 to 24.05, with one small lot at Tls. 31.3 on board; stock is 2,101 chests. Oolongs have been taken at full rates, showing irregularity and some rise on former values; settlements 2,212 half-chests at Tls. 17.3 to 30.8 on board. Further receipts amount to 3,490 half-chests, and stock is 1,912 half-chests. Scented Teas have found buyers for 3,568 boxes at Tls. 10.3 to 10.8 on board for Siftings, Tls. 16.8 to 41.8 on board for Scented Orange Pekoes, and Tls. 16.8 on board for low quality Scented Caper. Prices have ruled extremely high for quality. Total production is 86,300 boxes to date, as against 119,500 boxes at same time last year; stock 557 boxes. Purchases of Flowery Pekoes amount to 547 chests at Tls. 28.8 to 52.8 on board.

AMOY AND FORMOSA.—A string of Amoy Ooloongs had been bought, averaging barely good cargo, at \$23, short price, showing rather worse value than previous purchases. Formosa Ooloong : Advices from Tamsui report the total export to date as 7,373,550 lbs., against 4,880,177 lbs. at the same time last year. Settlements at this port 926 half-chests.

at \$30 o. b. for good, \$36 for fine, and \$42 45 for finest, being about previous rates. Most of these Teas are said to be for shipment to the London market. Stock 62,681 half-chests. The British ship Thayatira, loading for New York at £1 17s. 6d. per ton. Expected: S.S. Glenfalloch, to fill up at £3 10s. per ton. For London: The s.s. Fleur Castle, circulated to call towards the end of November; rate £3 per ton.

CANTON.—Messrs. Deacon and Co.'s Report says:—We have to report a larger business in Tea during the past fortnight; the general tone of our market is however unchanged, and prices for all classes have been fully maintained. Congou: A few small parcels of fine fourth crop tea have been taken at Tls. 32 to 33. From Macao a fair amount of shipments have gone forward, consisting chiefly of contract teas. Scented Teas: There has been more activity in our market, and a fair business has resulted in Capers; we cannot quote any decline in prices, though natives have shown more readiness to part with their teas, as shortly they will be unable to obtain any flower for scenting purposes. Common kinds have been bought at Tls. 17½ to 18½, fair to medium at Tls. 19 to 22, fine and finest at Tls. 26 to 33. Considerable arrivals of leaf have come to hand, and the stock has consequently been augmented; there is little doubt, however, that a fair proportion of the leaf which is now here will be held over till next season. A moderate business has been done in Pekoes at very full rates; "long leaf" kinds of medium grade may be quoted at Tls. 25 to 26, and fine at Tls. 29 to 33. A few parcels of "new makes" have found buyers at Tls. 16 to 18. Canton Greens: No settlements are reported. The following is a summary of the fortnight's business:—Congou, 390 boxes at Tls. 32 to 33 per picul; Scented Caper, 16,400 boxes at Tls. 17½ to 33; Scented Orange Pekoe, 6,690 boxes at Tls. 16 to 33.

SILK

YOKOHAMA.--Continued unfavourable advices from the European markets, added to the great difficulty in negotiating against shipments, had tended to reduce business. At the close more disposition was apparent to operate at the current quotations, which showed an important reduction on those of last mail. Settlements from 1st July to date, 15,900 bales; do, 1875-6, 7,200; do, 1874-5, 5,700; do, 1873-4, 6,600; do, 1872-3, 7,450; 1871-2, 7,300; 1871-2, 1,960. Stock, 3,000 bales, against 1,300 bales last year. Silk-worm Eggs: Total arrivals since the beginning of the season had been 1,100,000 cards, and total shipments to date 165,000 cards. Of the latter it was computed that the goods delivered to foreign houses, under contracts entered into at the commencement of the season, and the consignments of native dealers, represented about 100,000 cards; the balance consisting of the purchases made in the open market during the fortnight, at an average price of \$2.30 to \$2.50.

SHANGHAI.—The *North China Herald* report says:—Prices have further declined to Tls. 500 for common Taftees, of which class it is difficult to even get a muster, the supply being so limited and held to a great extent by one or two native speculators; the asking price for Blue Elephant is Tls. 640, and it is impossible to say what would be accepted for best chops; coarse silks are still pressed at Tls. 440 for middling Kashings and Tls. 400 to 410 for good 9 x 12 moss Taysams re-reels are Tls. 120 per picul lower than they were a month since, and Tls. 560 has been accepted for common, holders generally appearing fairly firm for the better classes. Arrivals, principally yellow silks, have increased the unsold stock to close upon 23,000 bales, and with the reported fall at home it is unlikely we shall see business resumed here to any extent for some time yet. It is a question, though, whether a demand for native consumption will not help to clear off a considerable portion of the present "rubbish" in stock, should prices decline very much lower.

CANTON.—Messrs. Deacon's Circular says:—There has been only a very moderate demand throughout the fortnight, and dealings have been in a more limited compass than for some time hitherto. For the French mail settlements were 350 bales Tsatlee, and 200 bales have since changed hands. Prices have been somewhat irregular, but a decline of \$25 per picul on previous quotations has been established. No. 4 Tsatlee of good quality is, nominally, worth \$515 per picul, and should disquieting reports continue to be received from the other side, it is reasonable to expect a further decline. About 100 bales of sixth yield have arrived from the country; the quality is not approved, and the preponderance of yellow thread is said to be considerably in excess of the usual average quantity. Long-reels: Parsees have taken 20 piculs and 20 bales of common Tsatlee sorts for export to India. For Re-reels there has been a fair demand, and fine descriptions have been most in favour. Settlements under contract are 450 boxes. Stock is computed at 1,200 to 1,500 bales Tsatlee, 50 bales Cunchuck and Lucklow, and 100 to 200 bales of inferior kinds.

EXPORT OF TEA AND SILK—SEASON 1875-76.

TO GREAT BRITAIN.

Date.	TEA.					SILE
	From Shang- hai and Hankow	From Foo- chow.	From Amoy.	From Canton, Macao, &c.	Total lbs.	
From June 1, 1876, to Nov. 8, 1876	78274727	42333054	1814075	14042234	133164090	3464
From June 1, 1875, to Nov. 8, 1875	63077632	50742065	1796509	14706174	132322380	2923
TO THE CONTINENT.						
From June 1, 1876, to Nov. 8, 1876	...	...	...	...	344067	Bla. 1 Cases
Do. do. 1875, to Nov. 8, 1875	...	...	...	...	8810529	4807 3420

TO UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

		Bls. & Cases
From June 1, 1876, to Nov. 8, 1876	... ... ...	26316784 3844
Do. do. 1876, to Nov. 8, 1876	... ... ...	29564088 4488

TO AUSTRALIA.

From June 1, 1876, to Nov. 8, 1876	... ... ...	14,839,873
Do. do. 1876, to Nov. 8, 1876	... ... ...	14,873,319

TO GREAT BRITAIN.

From	Silk, bales Tea-lbs.	China & Japan.	From	Silk, bales Tea-lbs.	China & Japan.
1843 to 1844	61,022,600	*	1864 to 1865	121,236,870	32,313
1845 to 1846	57,334,400	18,600	1865 to 1866	118,333,042	62,890
1850 to 1851	63,973,000	92,144	1866 to 1867	118,423,290	50,052
1853 to 1854	77,327,800	61,283	1867 to 1868	116,890,430	57,449
1855 to 1856	92,240,300	50,481	1868 to 1869	142,789,804	70,917
1857 to 1858	76,990,255	68,815	1869 to 1870	139,740,193	63,807
1858 to 1859	65,789,792	83,134	1870 to 1871	131,969,850	61,329
1859 to 1860	85,560,452	64,169	1871 to 1872	149,774,395	64,589
1860 to 1861	90,066,160	70,644	1872 to 1873	151,869,262	57,263
1861 to 1862	109,854,040	79,199	1873 to 1874	144,588,620	47,373
1862 to 1863	121,973,580	72,887	1874 to 1875	161,964,497	65,109
1863 to 1864	117,462,586	46,603	1875 to 1876	166,318,287	87,483

* Including the Continent.

EXCHANGES, &c.

[For dates see first page.]

ON LONDON.

At	Bank Bills.	Credits.	Documentary.
Yokohama, 6 m.s.....	4s. 2d.	4s. 2½d.	4s. 2½d.
Shanghai	5s. 4d. to 5s. 4½d.	5s. 4d.	5s. 5d.
Canton	4s. 1½d.	4s. 1½d.	4s. 1½d.
Hong Kong	4s. 2d.	4s. 3d.	4s. 3d.
Macao	4s. 2d.	4s. 3d. to 4s. 3½d.	4s. 3½d.
Singapore	4s. 3d.	—	—
Penang	4s. 2d.	4s. 2½d.	4s. 2½d.
Manila	—	—	—
MISCELLANEOUS.			
—	At Shanghai.	At Hong Kong.	—
Bills on India	Rs. 311.	Rs. 232	—
Hong Kong ...	25 to 26 dis.	—	—
Bar silver ...	Tls. 1112.5	7½ prem. (nominal)	—
Mexican dollars ...	Tls. 77.00	3½ prem. (nominal)	—

SHARES AT HONG KONG.

Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, 32 per cent. prem.
 Hong Kong Gas Company, \$75 per share.
 Hong Kong and Whampoa Dock, 40 per cent. discount.
 China Traders' Insurance Company, \$1,670 per share.
 Hotel Shares, \$47½ per share.
 Hong Kong and Macao Steamboat Company, 20 per cent. dis.
 Hong Kong Fire Insurance Company, \$56½ per share.
 Union Insurance Society, \$600 per share.
 China and Japan Marine Insurance Company, Tls. 15 per share.
 China Fire Insurance Company, \$65 premium.
 Chinese Insurance Company, \$308 per share.
 Shanghai Steam Navigation Company, Tls. 68 per share.
 Chinese Imperial Loan, £105.

* * * The latest telegrams report the rate for six months' bank bills at Penang 4s. 2½d., at Singapore 4s. 2½d., at Hong Kong 4s. 2d., at Shanghai 5s. 7d.

TELEGRAMS FROM THE FAR EAST.

THE WAR IN ATCHIN.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

THE HAGUE, DEC. 23.—Intelligence received here from Atchin announces that the Rajah of Simpangolim has withdrawn his submission to the authorities of the Netherlands, and has taken to flight. The Commander of the Dutch forces has consequently declared him deprived of his dignities. The chiefs and inhabitants of Simpangolim appear to be well disposed towards the Dutch.

THE REBELLION IN PERAK.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

SINGAPORE, DEC. 23.—The Malay Tribunal has sentenced the Mahara-jah Lela and six others to be hanged. It is probable, however, that this sentence will be commuted.

RUSSIA IN CENTRAL ASIA.

(TIMES TELEGRAM.)

BERLIN, DEC. 28.—General Lamakin's expedition has returned to Krusenovodsk, having dug wells and formed cisterns on the road to North-Western Khiva.

SHANGHAI MARKET REPORT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

SHANGHAI, DEC. 28.—Manchester Goods quiet, but steady; 8½ lbs. Grey Shirtings, Tls. 1.8.5.; Cotton, fair medium China Tls. 10½; Silk firm; No. 3 Teatice, Tls. 610; total export to date, 57,000 bales.

HONG KONG MARKET REPORT.

(REUTER'S TELEGRAM.)

HONG KONG, DEC. 28.—Manchester Goods, business at a standstill; 8½ lbs. Grey Shirtings, \$2.35; 16-24 Water Twist, \$101; fair medium Bengal Cotton, \$12½.

THE MAIIS.

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PRESENT INWARD MAIL.—BRINDISI, DEC. 29.—The P. and O. Company's steamer Pera, with the India and China mails, arrived at 4, and the mails left for London at 6 p.m. She experienced a very heavy gale of wind throughout the voyage.

HEAVY PORTION OF PRESENT INWARD MAIL.—PORT SAID, DEC. 24.—The P. and O. Company's steamer Mongolia left here at midnight for Southampton.

NEXT INWARD MAIL.—SUEZ, DEC. 26.—The Messageries Maritimes steamer Peiho, with the inward French mails from China and Japan, left here to-day for Port Said and Marseilles, at which latter port she may be expected on or about Jan. 3.

INWARD MAIL DUE JAN. 15.—GALLE, DEC. 22.—The P. and O. steamer Peshawur left at 5 p.m. to-day, with China and Australian mails, for Suez and Southampton. Specie for Europe, £290,000.

INWARD MAIL DUE JAN. 22.—GALLE, DEC. 23.—The Messageries Maritimes steamer Djemnah, with the inward French mails from China and Japan, left here to-day for Aden.

LAST OUTWARD P. AND O. MAIL.—SUEZ, DEC. 30.—The P. and O. Company's steamer Hydaspes left here at 8 p.m. to-day, and the Thibet at 5 p.m. yesterday, for Calcutta and Bombay respectively, with the outward mails of December 14 and 22.

OUTWARD MAIL OF DEC. 1.—GALLE, DEC. 26.—The Messageries Maritimes steamer Ava, from Marseilles on the 3rd December, left here to-day for Singapore.

OUTWARD MAIL OF NOV. 10.—SHANGHAI, DEC. 25.—The P. and O. Company's steamer Geelong, with the London mail of the 10th November, arrived here to-day.

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS.

At YOKOHAMA.—From London, Dec. 31, Killarney (str.).

At HIODO.—From Cardiff, Nov. 6, M. I. K.

At SHANGHAI.—From London, Dec. 20, Glenfinlas (str.); from Liverpool, 27, Priam (str.).

At HONG KONG.—From London, Dec. 27, Flintshire (str.); from Hamburg, 20, Mount Washington; from London, Jan. 1, Gordon Castle (str.).

At BATAVIA.—From London, Nov. 16, Emma and Alice; from Glasgow, 15, County of Lancaster; from Bordeaux, 14, Dupuy de Lome; from Rotterdam, 13, Cornelius Smit; from New York, 15, Samuel G. Reed; from Boston (U.S.), Francis B. Fay; from Algoa Bay, 13, Nonpareil; from Nieuwe Diep, Dec. 28, Holland (str.).

At SAMARANG.—From New York, Nov. 1, Fleetwing; from Buenos Ayres, 14, Lord Raglan.

At SURABAYA.—From Rotterdam, Nov. 3, Voorlichter.

At SINGAPORE.—From Liverpool, for Manila, Nov. 17, Spanish steamers No. 1, and 2; from Mauritius, Warren Hastings; from London, Dec. 21, Gordon Castle (str.); from Sunderland, 15, Melpomene.

At PENANG.—From London, previous to Dec. 27, Egeria (str.).

DEPARTURES.

From YOKOHAMA.—For Falmouth, Oct. 28, Cordelia; for New York, Nov. 4, Ambassador; 12, Lothair.

From SHANGHAI.—For London, Nov. 12, Glaucus (str.); Dec. 26, Borealis.

From AMOY.—For New York, Nov. 6, Sosterk; 15, Oscar Mooyer.

From HONG KONG.—For London, Nov. 19, Glaucus (str.); 20, Glenlyon (str.); 21, Marie Heydorn II; for New York, 20, Denbighshire; Dec. 30, Beemah.

From MANILA.—For London, Nov. 6, Sir Jamsetjee Family; for Liverpool, 12, Elizabeth Nicholson; for New York, 8, Antelope; for Boston, 13, G. F. Muntz.

From BATAVIA.—For Channel, Nov. 13, S. B. Allen; 15, St. Hilda; 16, Daggry, Edgar Cecil; for Holland, 10, Java Packet; 15, Amstel-stroom.

From SAMARANG.—For Channel, f.o., Nov. 2, Dunnikier; for Holland, 7, Tongoy; 12, Gebroeders v.d. Beek; 13, Ary Scheffer.

From SURABAYA.—For Channel, Nov. 4, County of Ayr.

From SINGAPORE.—For London, Nov. 18, Lake Leman; for Hamburg, Hermann; for Boston (U.S.), 27, Star of the South; for New York, from Shanghai, Dec. 27, Glenfalloch (str.).

VESSELS LOADING.

At SHANGHAI.—For New York, Lady Elizabeth, Leander.

At FOOCHOW.—For London, Black Prince, Endymion.

At AMOY.—For New York, Thyatira.

At HONG KONG.—For London, May Queen, G. Shotton, Salamis Chalmette, Elmstone; for New York, Madame Demarest; for Hamburg, Freja.

At MANILLA.—For London, Dartmouth, Jessie Isabel, Coldstream; for Liverpool, Trinidad, Banian; for New York, John Bunyan, Star of the West, Challenge, Anahuac, Hengist; for Boston (U.S.), Southern Cross.

At SINGAPORE.—For London, Antonio Camogli, D. Dubrovaski; for Liverpool, Nola, Kalliope; for New York, Brothers German; for Boston (U.S.), Electra; for Mauritius, Warren Hastings.

At PENANG.—For London, Borga.

FREIGHTS AND CHARTERS.

From YOKOHAMA.—To London, by steamer, silk \$5 per bale; tea, £3 17s. 6d. per ton of 40 cubic feet; to New York, by sailing vessel, £1 17s. 6d. per ton.

From SHANGHAI.—List not to hand.

From FOOCHOW.—To London, by steamer, £3 per 40 cubic feet.

From HONG KONG.—To London, by sailing vessel, sugar £2 12s. to £2 15s. per ton of 20 cwt.; to New York, £1 12s. 6d. per ton of 40 feet.

From MANILA.—To London, sailing vessel, Taal Sugar, £2 7s. 6d. per ton; Hemp, £3 15s. per ton; to Liverpool, Taal Sugar, £2 7s. 6d. per ton; Hemp, £3 10s. per ton; to Boston, Sugar, \$12 per ton; Hemp, \$8 per 4 bales.

From SINGAPORE.—To London, by steamer, £3 10s. measurement; sailing vessel, £2 5s. dead weight; £2 15s. light freight; to Liverpool, £2 2s. 6d. dead weight; £2 12s. 6d. light freight; to Mauritius, planks, £1 12s. per ton.

From PENANG.—To London, by steamer, Tin, £1 15s. per ton; sailing vessel rates unchanged.

PASSED STRAITS OF SUNDA.

Date.	Ship.	From	To
Nov. 10	President Trakranen.	Amsterdam	Samarang
" 12	Tongoy	Samarang	Queenstown
" 14	Mantura	Swatow	London
" 15	Queen of the Sea	Manila	New York
" 15	Bussorah	Cheribon	Falmouth
" 17	Wm. van Namen	Hong Kong	New York
" 18	Dagry	Cheribon	Falmouth
" —	Unison	Singapore	New York
Dec. 7	Janet	Swatow	London
" 7	Ary Scheffer	Samarang	Amsterdam
Dec. 7	Lothair	Yokohama	New York
" 7	Sir Jamsetjee Family	Manila	London

SHIPPING POSTSCRIPT.

ARRIVALS NOT IN THE TABLES.—Dec. 24, at Havre, from Batavia, Banqueray; 28, at Boston (U.S.), from Singapore, Memnon; at Queenstown, from Batavia, County of Elgin; at Liverpool, from Akyab, Callao; at Falmouth, from Rangoon, China; 29, at Queenstown, from Akyab, Pauline; at Falmouth, from Rota; at Plymouth, from Yokohama, Sir Lancelot; from Rangoon, Alcester; at Queenstown, from Yokohama, Nettie Merryman; from Ribble; at New York, from Shanghai, Teviot (str.); 31, at Amsterdam, from Batavia, Prince Hendrik (str.); 30, at Liverpool, from Singapore, Leonard; at Queenstown, from Batavia, Evor.

DEPARTURES.—Dec. 27, from New York, for Java, Sir Robert Sale; 28, from Shields, for Batavia, Hinda; 26, from Ymuiden, for Macassar, Holland; Nov. 24, from Buenos Ayres, for Batavia, Alice Muir; Dec. 29, from Liverpool, for Rangoon, Corby; for Shanghai, Ulysses (str.); from Cardiff, for Hong Kong, Canaan; from Sunderland, for Colombo, Inheritance; from Glasgow, for Batavia, County of Sterling. SPOKEN.—P.Q.R.S. (Dutch), Batavia, to Rotterdam, Dec. 7, 17.40 S., 3.46 W.; Vice-Admiral May, Amsterdam to Batavia, Dec. 21, 43 N., 11 W.; Burdwan to Anjer, Dec. 13, 12 N., 27 W.; Ardent, Cardiff to Colombo, Nov. 28, 3 N., 28 W.; Peter, Cardiff to Singapore, Nov. 18, 7 N., 23 W.; W. E. Gladstone, Colombo to London, Nov. 18, 11 S., 10 W.; Mary Ann Wilson, Leith to Manila, Nov. 24, 9 S., 27 W.

CASUALTY.—West Coves—Dec. 29, the Dutch ship Anna, Overlift master, general cargo, from Rotterdam, for Sourabaya, has put in here leaky; has had four feet of water in hold.—Coves, Isle of Wight, Dec. 29, the barque Desdemona, of Jersey, Olsen master (rice), for orders, from Akyab, has arrived here leaky in topsides; five stanchions, some bulwarks, and rail gone, boat stove, master injured, and chief mate lost overboard, which occurred on the 14th inst., lat. 24 miles S., long. 96.20 E. Master is of opinion that cargo is damaged, as the vessel had three feet of water in her at one time.—Havre, Dec. 28, the Red Deer, ship, Ulger, from Java (sugar), arrived here Dec. 20, 20 leaky.—Plymouth, Dec. 29, the ship Sir Lancelot, Hepburn, arrived here from Yokohama; had heavy weather from Western Islands home; damaged boats, and had sundry other minor damages.—New York, Dec. 29, the Teviot (str.), Nisbet, from Shanghai, got ashore in entering port, but afterwards came off, and has arrived here; the Shand, Sangster, arrived here from Manila, is leaking badly.

MISCELLANEOUS.—St. Helena, arrived and proceeded, Dec. 7, Osaka, from Hiogo; 8, Golden Spur, from Hong Kong, both for London; Innocentia, from Ilo Ilo, for New York; passed, 9, Chaema, from Sourabaya, for Channel.—Algoa Bay, sailed, Nov. 28, Mignon, 29, Clara, both for Guam.—Table Bay, sailed, Nov. 30, Annie, for Guam; Daniel, for Rangoon; Dec. 4, Vixen, for Guam.—Cape Town, Dec. 5, the claim made by the Cervantes for salvage services rendered to the Batavier, from Rotterdam for Batavia, has been settled, and £700 has been awarded, irrespective of £300 paid to the Gnu tug.

PASSED SUEZ CANAL.—Dec. 29, Friesland, from Batavia, for Nieuwe Diep.

SHIP REPORTS.—The Undine, arrived at London Dec. 27, reports left Shanghai Sept. 10, had a light passage down the China seas, passed Anjer Oct. 10, and experienced moderate weather to the Cape, and from thence had very light weather to 49 N., when it commenced with violent gales from N.N.W. and very low glass and unsettled weather. Made the Lizard on Dec. 21, 102 days. The master of the Maulesden, arrived at Liverpool from San Francisco, reports having been in collision on Nov. 24, in lat. 10 N., lon. 25 W., with the barque Marseilles, of Greenock, from London for Mauritius; the latter sunk a few minutes after collision; crew saved by Maulesden, and brought to Liverpool. The steamer Antenor, from Shanghai, at London, reports:—Sailed Nov. 1. Had strong W. and S.W. winds crossing from Malacca to Ceylon, with heavy squalls and lightning to the north and every appearance of bad weather in the Bay of Bengal; after passing Malta had strong W. to S.E. winds, with thunder, lightning, and very unsettled weather; from Gibraltar to Lisbon experienced a furious gale, varying from W. to N.W. with terrific squalls and very high sea; off Ushant wind shifted to S.E., freshening to a strong gale, with thick weather; the same weather up Channel; barometer as low as 29.29.

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, AND DEATHS.

BIRTHS.

BELL.—On the 26th Nov., at Newara Elyya, Ceylon, Mrs. James Leonard Bell, of a son.

BUCHHEISTER.—On the 14th Nov., at Shanghai, Mrs. Buchheister, of a daughter.

COLES.—On the 18th Nov., at Hong Kong, the wife of George Coles, prematurely, of a son.

CUMMING.—On the 29th Dec., at Croydon Dean, St. Peter's-road, Croydon, the wife of W. H. Cumming, Captain R.N., H.M.S. *Superbates*, of a son.

DYER.—On the 25th Oct., at the Imperial College of Engineering, Tokio, the wife of Henry Dyer, of a son.

GORLACH.—On the 3rd Nov., at Yokohama, the wife of Capt. W. H. Gorlach, of daughter, 5.

GROSVENOR.—On the 25th Dec., at Saughton Grange, near Chester, the Countess Grosvenor, of a daughter.

HUGHES.—On the 16th Nov., at Hiogo, the wife of Robert Hughes, of a son, stillborn.

KIDDLE.—On the 27th Dec., at Soutien, the wife of John Kiddle, R.N., of a son.

MURKHAM.—On the 21st Sept., at St. Kilda's Richmond-hill, the wife of A. Macaulay, Murkham, Bengal Civil Service, of a daughter, Christina Murkham.

OLIPHANT.—On the 21st Nov., at Ranchi, Coats Nazpur, Bengal, the wife of H. L. Oliphant, H.M.B.C.S., of a daughter.

PARSON.—On the 21st Nov., at Hong Kong, Mrs. R. Raddecker, of a son, stillborn.

RADDECKER.—On the 21st Nov., at Hong Kong, Mrs. R. Raddecker, of a son, stillborn.

REIS.—On the 10th Nov., at Shanghai, the wife of Adolph Reis, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

CUNNINGHAM—HART.—On the 20th Dec., at St. Mary's, Horsham, by the Rev. J. S. Hodzson, M.A., Vicar, Robert Cunningham, of Ceylon, to Edith, youngest daughter of the late David Hart.

JARMAN—SANGARO.—On the 17th Nov., at the British Consulate, and subsequently at Christ Church, Yokohama, by the Rev. W. F. Garrett, J. J. Jarmain, to Miss Oya Sada, eldest daughter of the late Mr. Oyami Sangaro, of Tokio.

LAW—ETHERIDGE.—On the 25th Dec., at St. Bartholomew's, by the Rev. Henry Stevens M.A., Vicar of Holy Trinity Church, Sydenham, Walter J. Law, of China, to Emily Matilda, eldest daughter of T. R. Etheridge, Kirkdale, Sydenham.

SHAW—HUTCHINSON.—On the 21st Dec., at the parish church, Jersey, by the Rev. Stuart Paterson, Military Chaplain, Robert John Hutchinson Shaw, of Coorg, India, eldest son of Robert St. John Shaw, of Ceylon, to Florence Carew, youngest daughter of F. Cayley Hutchinson, D.I.G. of Hospitals, Indian Army.

DEATHS.

BARRADAS.—On the 21st Nov., at Singapore, M. Barradas, aged 33 years.

CAMPBELL.—On the 22nd Dec., at 31, Albemarle-street, P.G.O.D.V., Lieut.-General George Campbell, C.B., late 52nd Light Infantry, and Colonel Commanding 5th Light Infantry.

CRAIG.—On the 28th Nov., drowned at Sourabaya, Java, Captain Archibald Craig, of the ship *County of Bute*.

FEARON.—On the 25th Dec., at Blackheath, Harold Mackillop, infant son of Robert Ingle and Mary Fearon, aged 21 days.

GOULD.—On the 21st Dec., at the Bury, Great Hormead, Her. s., Lieut.-Colonel Francis Augustus Gould, in his 51st year.

HAWKES.—On the 18th Dec., at York-terrace, Regent's-park, General Robert Hawkes, late of Her Majesty's Bengal Cavalry, in the 67th year of his age.

PEARSON.—On the 11th Dec., at 35, Bernays-street, Russell-square, Joseph Pearson, formerly of Manila, and late of Clement's-inn and King William-street, London, merchant.

PRISCOTT.—On the 2nd Dec., at Gen. Gen. William Prescott, H.M.'s Myliss Army.

SALWEY.—On the 2nd Dec., at Remond, Arthur Salwey, Commissioner R.N. (Retired), second son of the Rev. Thomas Salwey, late Vicar of Oswestry, aged 42.

THE CHINESE MISSION TO ENGLAND.

(NORTH CHINA HERALD.)

The Chinese Embassy, which is on the point of departure for England, is composed of two joint-envoys, in accordance with the peculiar and cumbersome system which has been adopted by the Yamen of Foreign Affairs for the representation of the Chinese Government abroad. This system owes its origin, primarily speaking, to the Japanese invasion of Formosa, in 1874, which quickened in a remarkable degree the sense entertained by the Chinese official body of the necessity of cultivating international relations from a new standpoint. The decision to make a beginning with the despatch of envoys to foreign countries, which was made known in the memorials to the Throne—translations of which were published in July, 1875—was the first instalment in the measures of "progress" initiated in consequence of the Formosan panic; but the individuals who were singled out as the destined envoys of the future were, with but one or two exceptions, men of the most inferior standing. Almost simultaneously with the appearance of these memorials, however, the partial solution of the difficulty arising out of the murder of Mr. Margary, arrived at in September, 1875, compelled the Chinese Government to take a further step in advance. One element in the conditions imposed by the British Minister was the despatch of a mission of apology to Her Majesty the Queen; but it appears to have been intimated at the same time that the envoy to be charged with this mission must be a person of adequate rank and position; and the Chinese Government consequently selected for the duty an official of a totally different type from that to which the previous recommendations had been confined. Kwoh Sung-tao, the functionary who, on the 28th August, 1875, was appointed Envoy Extraordinary to Great Britain, is a man verging on the sixtieth year of his age, who gained distinction in early life by his scholarship, and filled in succession several literary offices in Peking. He is a native of Yenan, and a fellow-provincial, therefore, of the venerated statesman Tseng Kwoh-fan, with whom he was connected by ties of marriage and early friendship. In 1859 he was sent on a special mission from the Court to accompany Prince Sang-kolinsin, during the latter's tenure of command at Tientsin: and it is said that he remonstrated, though in vain, against the impolicy of the treacherous attack which was planned against the British gunboats at Taku in June of that year. After holding various provincial offices he was sent in 1865 to Canton, as Judicial Commissioner of the post next but one below that of Governor of province; and, whilst acting Financial Commissioner, he was placed for some months in charge of the acting Governorship of Kwang-tung. His conduct or his representations having given dissatisfaction, he was removed from office, and for nearly ten years he remained in retirement in his native place. Early in 1875 he arrived at Peking, in company with Tseng Kwoh-fan, the brother of the late Tseng Kwoh-fan, and shortly afterwards was appointed to the post of Judicial Commissioner at Foochow. From this he was summoned, a few months afterwards, to become the first regularly commissioned foreign envoy of the Chinese Government.

There was at the same time associated with him a much younger individual, in the person of the "expectant Taoutai" Hsu Chien-shen, a protege and employee of the Governor-General Li Hung-chang, at Pentsin. Although barely more than thirty years of age, and without having served in any substantive office, Hsu Chien-shen was made the colleague, with equal dignity, although lesser official rank, of the first-

named envoy, to whom in character and disposition he was radically unlike. As a much younger man, accustomed to the society of Europeans, and with some experience of foreign travel, his views were probably far less conservative than those of Kwoh; and it is not surprising that, after a year of nominal colleagueship, other employment should have been found for Hsu, who has been named first envoy to Japan, and a more congenial associate provided for the elder official. The vacancy caused by the withdrawal of Hsu has been filled by a Cantonese named Liu Si-hung, a totally unknown individual, hitherto employed in one of the inferior posts under the Board of Punishments at Peking. His only recommendation for the office conferred upon him appears to be the friendship subsisting between himself and the chief of the mission. His appearance and manners are described as unpossessing and he is in this respect in decided contrast with Kwoh Sung-tao, who is a person of dignified bearing and pleasing features. One marked peculiarity of the chief envoy is the almost unintelligible provincial dialect he speaks. His language bears, it is said, but a remote resemblance to even the southern type of mandarin, being, in pronunciation at least, a pure provincial patois. Even among Chinese officials his conversation is said to be guessed at rather than understood—a circumstance more frequent in the case of natives of the province of Hunan than would be easily believed by persons unfamiliar with the dialectic variations of the Chinese language.

It is understood that the post of interpreter to the mission will be filled by the two most advanced students of the School of Languages at Peking, named respectively Feng-I and Teh-Ming. As young men these students visited Europe in 1868-69, in the train of the Burlingame Mission. They have a respectable knowledge of English.

The chief envoy, who became a widower many years ago, has no actual wife at present, and the "Lady Kwoh" who has been spoken of is, therefore, an imaginary person. He is attended, however, by two "secondary wives" or concubines, both elderly ladies, from whom he finds it so difficult to separate himself that he will be accompanied by both on the journey. Their position will, probably, be appreciated with due respect, and they will doubtless be little, if at all, seen during the stay of the Mission in England. We may add that H.E. Kwoh has the reputation among his countrymen of a man of extreme probity, and of very unbending views, and, as is not unusual among Chinese officials of this character, he considers penitentiary of habit one of the first of duties. The expenses of the Mission have, it is stated, been calculated for this reason on a very modest scale; and the Chinese Embassy will probably startle the *corps diplomatique* at the Court of St. James's by the example of frugality it will set. In this respect it will form a startling contrast to the meteor-like course of Mr. Burlingame on his roving mission, when something like Taels 200,000, abstracted from the fund which was legally devoted to the improvement of the harbours and coast navigation of China, was expended in the successful endeavour to mystify the public men and the press of Europe with regard to the character and intentions of the Chinese Government. The present mission, even though proceeding too far at first in the opposite direction, will doubtless soon discover that diplomatic etiquette and social proprieties in Europe necessitate a larger outlay than is for the moment contemplated.

JUDICIAL STATISTICS FOR 1875.

The Judicial Statistics annually published furnish by far the best index of the state of crime in the country. Comprising as they do not only a great deal of the information supplied by the special reports on convict and local prisons and on reformatory and industrial schools, but also returns of all criminal proceedings and statements respecting the establishment and work of the police and constabulary forces throughout England and Wales, they supply fuller data than any of the former for forming a correct judgment on this important subject. Valuable as these statistics unquestionably are, they probably do not receive the attention they deserve in consequence of the dislike which the generality of people have to obtaining information through the medium of a vast array of figures. It may be well, therefore, to gather out of the records for 1875, just published, a few of the principal items which they contain, and from which our readers can draw their own deductions as to the efficacy of the means employed for the prevention and repression of crime. Foremost amongst those means stand the police and constabulary forces, the strength of which was increased last year 3·1 per cent., and amounted to 29,460 men, or one for every 812 of the population estimated for the middle of 1875. A comparison of the strength of these bodies last year with that at which they stood ten years ago shows that in the intervening period their numbers have been augmented by 6,210 men, or at the rate of 26·6 per cent. The principal addition in 1875 was to the number of sergeants and constables, but the additional constables appointed for special purposes were also added to slightly, so as to amount to 453 men, of whom 102 are employed in the city of London and in the boroughs, the remainder belonging to the counties. It may be here observed that beyond the 29,460 men above mentioned, of whom nearly 700 are stationed in Government departments, Liverpool has dock and river police of its own, and some other seaport places, as well as Tunbridge Wells and Hove, appoint their constables under local Acts. Out of the whole force in England and Wales the metropolitan and city of London engross more than 11,000 men, and the remaining 18,451 are distributed throughout the boroughs and counties, the number of constables in the counties and metropolitan police being nearly equal. In the metropolitan area, when the men employed in Her Majesty's dockyards, &c., are deducted, the proportion of constables to population is one for every 398; in the city of London there is a policeman for every 94 of the inhabitants as enumerated in the census of 1871; in the boroughs the ratio is one constable to every 738 of their population, and that of places having constables under local Acts; and in the counties the constabulary are as one to every 1,244 of their population, exclusive of the boroughs. In each of these forces the last ten years have produced a large increase, and a consequent addition to their cost, so that in 1875 the whole

expense of maintaining the police and constabulary of England and the Principality came to £2,742,526, or not far short of a million in excess of their cost in 1864-5. It must be remembered in connection with this large increase of expenditure that these forces have necessarily grown with the growth of the population, and that the prices of all commodities, as well as the rate of wages in the country, have risen greatly, so that the men could not be clothed and accoutred, nor, indeed, obtained, on the same terms as were found adequate ten years back. Hence the average total cost per man was last year £13 10s., inclusive of pay and equipment, whilst in the five years from 1863 to 1867 each man cost altogether £77 3s. 6d. on an average. The proportion of the total charges for the whole of both forces in this part of the kingdom, exclusive of the City of London police, contributed from the public revenue, was 40·6 per cent., or £1,081,216. The efficiency of the police may fairly be judged both by the number of offences committed and by that of persons apprehended.

THE ARCTIC EXPEDITION.

On the 21st inst. Mr. Clements R. Markham delivered a lecture on the results of the Arctic Expedition to the members of the London Institute, Finsbury-circus. When he last addressed them he explained, he said, the character of the results which the Expedition was likely to obtain, and he pointed out how the great work could not be completed by one or more ships sent out at the same time to the same locality, but that they would have to be followed up by others in other directions until the goal was accomplished. The recent expedition had, he considered, been eminently successful. The *Alert* and the *Discovery* wintered further north, and passed through a longer period of darkness and of intense cold, than any ships that had been sent out before them. They had also organised a system of sledging which was unique, whilst the sufferings endured by the men exceeded everything recorded in Arctic annals. It was never thought that the explorers of 1875 would be exposed to all the horrors of a dreadful disease, but such they had to encounter; for scurvy struck them down one by one until the lives of all hung upon a mere chance. Notwithstanding all that, they nobly persevered in the performance of their duty, had returned with a rich harvest of results in the various walks of science, and had made discoveries such as had thrown a flood of light on the Polar Sea. Mr. Markham dealt with his subject from a scientific point of view, describing the formation of icebergs, the setting in of streams and currents, and the general appearance of the Palaeocrytic or ancient sea of ice, which is supposed to surround the Pole. That land was not to be found in the higher latitudes was evidenced by the absence of birds, the only living thing seen by the northern division of sledgers being a little snow-bunting that had strayed from the nearest shore. Animal marine life almost ceased in the ice-covered Polar Sea. No seals were observed, and consequently no bears. Important meteorological and hydrographic observations were taken, and would be published as soon as they could be properly worked out. Results showing great geographical and geological research had also been obtained. Excellent tertiary coal had been discovered, and impressions of leaves brought back, proving that a luxuriant forest, numbering no fewer than fifty or sixty different species of arborescent trees, once grew near Disco, and on what is now a sea of ice. He considered the discovery of coal in 82 degs. north alone worth the whole cost of the Expedition twice over. Every species of flora discovered in the new region had been brought home. The expedition had achieved a great result also in educating a body of young men whose services as Arctic navigators hereafter could not be over-estimated, for to them alone was due the honour of planting the British flag on the most northerly point of the globe ever reached by man. Captain Markham was present, and was loudly cheered at the close of the lecture.

Three petty officers belonging to the *Alert* and the *Discovery*, named George Emmerson, John Radmore, and James Doidge, who had had their services in connection with the Expedition brought under the notice of the Admiralty by Capt. Nares, have received warrants from their Lordships. Others will be promoted as soon as they are able to pass the necessary examination.

THE JEWS IN THE EAST.—With the view of presenting a memorial prepared by the International Jewish Conference, which sat at Paris from the 11th to the 15th of December, a deputation from the Anglo-Jewish Association waited on Lord Derby on the 27th ult. The deputation was introduced by Baron Henry de Worms, who, as well as Mr. Serjeant Simon, M.P., and Mr. Julian Goldsmid, M.P., addressed his lordship on the subject of securing protection to the Jews in Roumania in any readjustment that may be made in regard to the Turkish provinces, this matter not necessarily being included in the deliberations of the plenary Conference. Mr. Serjeant Simon assured his lordship that the Jews were without the power of protection, and that almost every atrocity committed by the Bashi-Bazouks upon the unhappy Christians had been committed by the Roumanian Christians upon the Jews of that country. Lord Derby replied that the Government were not unaware of this persecution, and that he would be glad to communicate with the Anglo-Jewish Association and to forward its object by all means in his power.

THE GOLD COAST COLONY.—The *Gazette* notifies the appointments of Sir David Patrick Chalmers, Knt., to be Chief Justice; of Mr. James Marshall to be a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court; and of Mr. Thomas Witter Jackson to be a Puisne Judge of the Supreme Court of the Gold Coast Colony.

THE SCOTTISH PEERAGE.—The Earl of Mar and Kellie and Lord Balfour of Burleigh have been elected representative peers of Scotland to fill the vacancies created by the death of the Marquis of Tweeddale and of the Earl of Leven and Melville.

The P. and O. Company's steamer *Poonah*, Captain W.C. Angove, from Calcutta, via the Suez Canal, arrived at Southampton Thursday (three days late), bringing the heavy portion of the last inward P. and O. mail.

The will of the late Mr. De Long, American Minister to Japan, has been filed in the New York Probate Court. The estate is valued at \$20,000.

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SECRET SOCIETIES IN CHINA AND THE STRAITS.

THE subject of Secret Societies having been recently discussed in Singapore, and a suggestion made some years back for their registration having been revived, it may be desirable to pass in review briefly what is known with regard to such organisations in China generally, and with respect to them as they have become developed in the Straits Settlements. Secret Societies in China have been known to exist from the earliest days of our intercourse with that country, and have been noticed by almost all writers upon it. That such organisations exercise a very powerful influence there can be no doubt. They have, for the most part, been at the bottom of the factions which have been formed, and the rebellions which have broken out; and are always much dreaded by the Chinese officials, who have long recognised themselves to be powerless against them. The assassination of Viceroy MAH, at Nankin, some years ago, was known to have been brought about by the machinations of a powerful secret organisation in the South of China, and the authorities were openly threatened that if they punished the perpetrators of that deed there would at once be a body of 80,000 men in arms against the Government, and there seems little question that this threat had a very powerful effect upon the officials, and that the working of the Secret Society in question greatly impeded any efforts which they may have made to bring the malefactors to justice.

The power, therefore, of these associations in China itself cannot be doubted; but it is to be carefully remembered that with a weak and defective Government such societies may have a very different degree of influence to what may be exercised by similar organisations in a colony under British rule, and where at all events threats of outbreak are certain to be much less regarded than they are ordinarily by Chinese Mandarins. But even bearing this modifying element in mind, the Secret Societies in the Straits Settlements are still such as to call for serious attention, and we are not surprised that the subject has again been discussed in the Legislative Council. It is a curious fact that we owe to the labours of a Government Commission appointed to inquire into the working of the Secret Societies in Penang in the year 1868, the most reliable information which we possess concerning these organisations generally. It is impossible to deny that the powers of intimidation and coercion which that investigation showed they possessed, were of a very formidable character, and, indeed, were such as, if fully carried out, would lead to a complete subversion of all law and order. The main features of these Societies have already become familiar to those who are acquainted with affairs in China and the East. The oath administered amidst revolting surroundings, and fortified by drinking from a cup containing water in which blood from the fingers of each of the brethren had been mingled; the formidable code of by-laws for mutual help among which the manner in which assistance is to be rendered to murderers takes a specially prominent place; the persecuting activity with which new arrivals in Penang were forced to join the ranks of one of these Societies, and the regret which many felt at the thralldom into which they were thus plunged, have since

the time when that report appeared become well known to all whose attention has been turned to matters connected with the Far East. Since that time a variety of suggestions have been made for doing away with, or at least modifying, the disorganising effects which the *Huais* ("Hoeys," as usually written in the Straits papers) exert upon the native population: and, as noticed in a recent number of this Paper, registering the Societies has more than once been proposed as a desirable means of bringing them under control. We think, however, that such an attempt would be a mistake, for the following very strong reasons:—First, it would be an impossibility to register such Societies effectually; secondly, even if it were possible to register them it would be very bad policy to add to their importance by officially recognising their existence. Every probability lies in the direction of the Government completely failing in the work of registration. Whatever particulars the worthy heads of these Societies might kindly condescend to supply to the Government would assuredly be Will o' the Wisp lights which would serve only to make their present darkness the more treacherous; while the bare fact that the societies were recognised in any possible way by the Government would, among natives who are abjectly afraid of anything in the form of Government authority, become a powerful instrument of further intimidation; and thus the result attained would be precisely the opposite of what was intended. Before the Singapore Government think of seriously entering upon the task of registering Secret Societies, we would recommend them carefully to inquire into the amount of success which has attended the very much simpler business of registering cooks, coolies, servants, hawkers, &c., among Chinese and natives generally, and we strongly suspect, if a truthful report be made, that the results of the inquiry will be such as will show the utter hopelessness of any good being attained by undertaking so delicate a task as the registration of societies avowedly secret. What, then, it will be asked, is the Government to do? The answer we think is simple; they should do nothing directly, but knowing that such organisations exist, they should use every means in their power, through improvements in the police, and especially the Detective branch, to counteract the mischief which the *Huais* are able to produce. It is not to be overlooked that it may be, and, indeed, we think very probably is, part of the *rôle* of those connected with the secret organisations in the Straits to make them appear to the Government in the most formidable light possible, and in fact to cause a kind of scare as the very means of inducing the authorities to give in to them to some extent—thus establishing their power up to this point, being shrewdly aware that they have little to fear from increased vigilance on the part of the Government or the Police, so long as they themselves have the opportunity of directing, or rather of mis-directing, that vigilance, just as a conjuror tells his audience to look very carefully at what he is doing when he is about to deceive them—knowing very well that the harder they look the less they will see. We would certainly suggest that if the Straits authorities desire to suppress or to restrain the Secret Societies they had better obtain the information to enable them to do so, from some more reliable source than from the Secret Societies themselves.

THE YUNNAN OUTRAGE PROCLAMATION.

WE notice with pleasure that, contrary to what, judging from previous experience, there was too good reason to fear, the Chinese authorities appear to be thoroughly in earnest as to issuing the Proclamation agreed upon by the Chefoo Convention with reference to the Yunnan outrage. According to the *North China Herald*, the Proclamation which has been drawn up embodies Li-HUNG-CHANG's Memorial and the Decree issued by the Tsungli Yamen, asserting the privilege of foreigners to travel in the interior and their right to protection. As this will be posted in every prefecture and sub-prefecture, it may be reasonably expected to go far towards improving the *status* of foreigners generally in the country. There is no doubt that many of the difficulties which arise in the interior are due to ignorance on the part of the Chinese officials and people as to the actual rights which have been conceded to foreigners. The Peking authorities have hitherto hardly had the

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courage to let the large majority of the official and literary classes—and as a necessary consequence the masses of the people—know what has really been conceded in the Treaty of Tientsin, and to the present day it is not known at all in the interior that important rights have been granted to us. The Peking officials had no doubt some reason to be afraid of letting it be generally known to how great an extent they had, after the conclusion of the last war, come down from the arrogant position which they had up to that time held. The Peking Government had then to deal with the Taiping Rebellion, and for many years after that outbreak was suppressed their position was weak and doubtful. At present, however, they have, thanks to a great extent to our assistance, acquired much greater power; and the time has undoubtedly come when they should be expected to proclaim generally the rights which have been conceded to foreign nations. Nothing in the long run can be more impolitic than for them to abstain from so doing, as the risk of difficulties arising between China and some foreign nation must always be great, so long as the bulk of the residents are allowed to remain under the belief that Europeans are still treated by the Peking Government as "outside barbarians." The present step is unquestionably one in the right direction, and we trust that care will be taken by the Consular officials in China to ascertain for themselves that the proclamation which has been drawn up is duly posted.

THE interesting Petition of Right case, RUSTOMJEE v. the QUEEN, of which we gave particulars some time back, has been heard in the Court of Appeal. It arose, as our readers may recollect, with reference to the Chinese indemnity of 1842, in regard to which the plaintiff claimed compensation. He alleged that the justice of his claim had been admitted at the time by Sir HENRY POTTINGER, and that he was one of the persons in view of whose losses the indemnity in question was paid. But the Court of Appeal has sustained the original judgment entirely, and held that he had no legal claim against the Crown. The Crown, according to Lord COLE-RIDGE's judgment, has absolute discretion as to the terms on which a Treaty of Peace is to be made, and cannot be held bound by any expectations held out beforehand by its subordinate agents. In making a Treaty, in other words, the Crown cannot be in the position of a trustee or agent for subjects. A duty was no doubt incumbent on the Crown to administer the money properly; but this was a duty to act as Sovereign, according to the advice of Ministers, and if there was a failure to perform the duty, it was one which Parliament alone could correct.

OUR news from Peking by the last mail contains a statement to the effect that a Korean who had followed the ambassador from that country and had caused the death of a Chinaman was to be handed over to the Korean authorities for trial. It is justly observed that this fact shows that the principle of exterritoriality is recognised among the Chinese apart from their treaties with foreign nations. That a similar principle is frequently acted upon in China has long been known, and has always weighed considerably against the arguments which have been put forward in favour of our discontinuing to claim exterritorial privileges. The right, for example, of members of Chinese Guilds to have their disputes settled by the headmen of those corporations is fully recognised by all Chinese Mandarins; and this privilege is a personal right, very similar in its character to exterritoriality. In a country where such exemptions from the general judicial authority of the State continue to exist, it is impossible to look upon exterritoriality as either exceptional or oppressive.

THE latest mail advices from the United States report that on the 15th ult. the Japanese Minister at Washington presented to President GRANT a letter addressed to him by the Mikado, of which the following is a translation:—

"To his Excellency the President of the United States, General Ulysses S. Grant.—Great and Good Friend,—Now that the great Exposition in honour of the one hundredth year of your Excellency's National Government has been eminently successful, I write to congratulate you and the people over whom you preside. From my subjects in the United States I have heard nothing but words of kindness in regard to the manner in which they have been treated, and I believe

the recent intercourse between our countries will have a tendency to strengthen the friendship already existing. I would here express the sincere hope that the incoming century will not only witness the continued progress and prosperity of your nation in all branches of industry, but also prove an era of peace. This will be handed you in person by my Minister residing near your Government, who has been directed to emphasise my very friendly congratulations.—MUTSUHITO.
—Tokio, the 1st day of the 10th month of the 8th year of Meiji."

Correspondence.

THE OPIUM TRADE.

(To the Editor of the *London and China Telegraph*.)

SIR,—The letter of your correspondent, "An Old China Resident," contains several disputable statements; but the Opium controversy is old and interminable, and I believe neither you nor your readers would wish the whole subject discussed in your columns. I write merely to ask "An Old China Resident's" authority for his assertion that, "It has been shown conclusively that Opium smoking has been going on in China for over 130 years—and that in fact at that date it was a familiar habit in the country—that is, long before foreign Opium was brought to China." This is a very important statement, if true; but in one respect its inaccuracy appears at a glance. Going back 130 years takes us to 1746; that is long *after*, not long before foreign Opium was brought to China. Phipps, in his "China and Eastern Trade," refers to the old traffic between India and China by the Portuguese; his book is not easily accessible, but I can refer to our old friend "Robinson Crusoe," through whom you may learn that Defoe knew of the trade in Opium with China before 1719. Then as to Opium smoking being "*a familiar habit*" in the country in 1746, that could hardly have been, when, as Phipps tells us, the export of the drug to China was about 200 chests per annum until 1767. The whole of that may have been used in medicine, but if it all went to the pipe there could not have been many smokers supplied by it. But was there, in fact, a single smoker of opium in China in 1746? I thought I knew pretty well all that has been discovered about the origin of Opium smoking, and certainly it contained no shred of positive evidence that the habit had commenced at that date. Mr. Cooper, a passing traveller, picked up the notion that in the Far West of China the practice existed probably two centuries ago. But this seems to be mere unsupported conjecture. At Hankow the Chinese supposed the practice a century old, and that it came from Szechuen, but in Szechuen they said it was a Canton invention, dating from 1830. All the evidence that I possess points to the conclusion that whenever Opium smoking commenced it was extremely rare until just upon the close of last century, and, indeed, the statistics of the trade are sufficient to prove this beyond doubt.

If "An Old Resident" has new evidence to adduce it will be extremely interesting. If not, I must say he has misinterpreted the old, so as to lead people to regard Opium smoking in China as something substantially anterior to and independent of the Opium introduced from India, while in fact our Indian trade nourished the growing vice, and is mainly responsible for that inability of the Chinese to cope with the evil which your correspondent alleges. His object, of course, is to relieve us from moral responsibility, which, however, is simply impossible.—I am, &c.,

BLUE-BOOK.

(To the Editor of the *London and China Telegraph*.)

SIR,—I am glad of the opportunity your correspondent "An Old China Resident," has given me of putting, in what I consider their proper light, a few phases of this vexed question. My note to you, to which his is a reply, was a brief explanation of a point which was misunderstood by reason of its being one of a series (and most of which you have either kindly noticed or inserted in full in your valuable journal), and therefore not necessarily containing a full statement of the question—of the grounds of my belief or of the premises upon which my conclusions were based. While admitting that the Chinese Government may really wish to see the evil done away with, you doubt the power of the Central Government to compel the adoption of their views by the provincial officials. Your correspondent, however, goes much further, and not merely denies them the power to put down Opium smoking, but doubts the sincerity of the Government in their oft-repeated assurances, made in every direction, and in every form, whispered to our diplomats and missionaries, spoken out in despatches, and thundered out to her people in proclamations. After this I should like to know what sort of testimony or evidence can be adduced, or will be of any avail to satisfy such objections. Your correspondent calls for acts, not words. History provides us with both. I should not like to brand the nation, or even the mandarins, as liars, cheats, and robbers, and deny them common honesty, principles of humanity, justice, patriotism, &c., and assert that they simply use the fact of the illegality of Opium smoking to further their own personal and selfish ends. The gin-and-whisky argument referred to, invariably brought in to do service, proceeds on the assumption that the two cases are exactly similar, than which nothing

hardly be further from the truth. made of our ardent spirits when the Government and people come to look upon *drink* as the Chinese look upon opium. Although the question is growing fast among ourselves, and considerable modification of our licensing laws is likely to take place at no distant date, I am free to confess that *at present* it would be utterly impossible to abolish our drinking customs. If necessary, I shall be happy to point out the grave differences between the two articles in the two countries, in regard to their history, present condition and effects, legislative action and Governmental and popular opinion, and before which any supposed resemblance between them must vanish. The three main points in your correspondent's letter are—the origin of the vice, and the asserted inability and unwillingness of the Government to deal with the question, even if left free to act.

Whatever view expediency or necessity may compel us to adopt regarding these points, it seems to me that our case is very little, if at all, altered. History cannot be changed, falsified, or blotted out. Our smuggling trade, previous to its legalisation, our first war, with its opium indemnity, for what was acknowledged a contraband article; our second war, connected as it also was with smuggling, the fearful and systematic stimulus, to say the least of it, which we gave to the trade, the legalisation at the open ports, our Bengal monopoly of the growth and manufacture of the injurious drug, &c., cannot be justified or palliated. These are facts in our intercourse with China that are fixed and absolute, and cannot be manipulated to suit the exigencies of our Christianity, humanity and justness. It would appear that we have all along been reaping, together with golden opium harvests, the logical rewards of such conduct in the hostility of the governing classes, the malediction of that great people, unwillingness, except at the presence of force or the fear of it, to grant new and increased facilities for trade and intercourse, and so on.

There is one sentence in your correspondent's letter, actually bristling with misstatements pronounced to be *facts*. I have italicised the words upon which I wish the reader to concentrate his attention. "It has been shown conclusively that opium smoking has been going on in *China* for over 130 years, and that in fact at that date it was a familiar habit in the country, that is long *before* foreign opium was brought to China. The Chinese authorities have never taken effectual steps to put down the practice." The above is a sample of what passes current in the columns of our China newspapers; it has been reiterated over and over again, until people who do not know better, have come to believe it. I know well upon what evidence these statements are founded, and I rejoice at this opportunity of refuting them. Every italicised word, without exception, contains an untruth. I need not say I shall be happy to have my statements contradicted and the evidence led, and your correspondent will be only too glad, I suppose, to accede to this request, seeing that his *facts* are so conclusive. Not to trespass much upon your space in one issue, I shall confine the present letter to a brief review of the willingness and ability of the Chinese Government to put a stop to the internal trade and growth of the poppy, and the general addiction to the habit. And my statements, for various reasons, must be of the most general character. I think this point is conclusively proved from a consideration of the whole history of their opposition to the trade from 1796 onwards, when the first edict was issued against it, and the name of the drug was changed from "foreign medicine" to "foreign dirt;" their determined action in 1839, which resulted in war with such disastrous consequences to the Empire, the punishment meted out to their subjects guilty of the habit from that time down to the present day, ranging from decapitation of the smokers, down through confiscation of their property, to imprisonment; their oft-repeated proclamations and edicts, many of which have not been a dead letter, but have for the time being at least, and in certain districts and provinces, effectually stopped the trade, the habit, or the native growth; the strongly expressed desire of the Government that this country should reciprocate their feelings on this question and agree mutually to interdict the trade, &c. Without dilating on this point, in evidence of which whole chapters might be written, I think we are compelled to admit at once and ungrudgingly that this heathen Government has been, and still is sincerely desirous of getting quit of the evil. Any other supposition lands us in absurdities. Not a single dissentient voice has ever been raised against the Government for their anti-Opium policy. You will travel through China in vain to collect evidence in favour of the drug. Thousands upon thousands have passed through my hands, and I have never heard one good word said of it by any one, not even by the victims themselves; but I have heard *ad nauseam*, until I was ashamed of my nationality, of serious charges against our conduct in regard to the trade and the evils which we have brought upon them. Some of the points referred to in my last article *in re* the Chefoo Convention, and which you did me the honour to insert entire in your pages, and out of which this correspondence may be said to have arisen, indicate that the Government, and especially the Viceroy of Chihli, are taking pretty decisive steps to check and uproot the evil. When your correspondent refers to the mandarins winking at the Opium dens and taking bribes, he must know that the charge is especially true, not of the higher officials, but of the large unpaid class of underlings and hangers-on at the public

yamens, of which I have been told there are 800 in the Viceroy's office at Tientsin. These men for the most part are Opium smokers, and it is they who are causing so much mischief and laying the Government and officials open to the charge of your correspondent, which is, I admit, to a large extent true. It is, however, a question how far our very Opium wars and trade have not brought about this very evil, by impoverishing the Imperial Exchequer, disorganising their finance, and so causing, or at least stimulating, corruption, bribery, and the native growth of the poppy. I understand things were not in this condition last century, in the prosperous and energetic reign of Kienlung.

In regard to their power to suppress the evil, even if left free to act, there is a great deal of misunderstanding. It suits our case to take the side of inability, and undoubtedly the general impression is that they are unable to cope with the evil. I admit they lack the courage to renew the old policy. Were another similar effort made, I am satisfied that, as far as our Government is at least concerned, it could not but be attended with success. Our trade is not now so dependent upon this one article—public opinion at home and in China, both among the merchants and in the Press, is much changed—we have a more intimate knowledge of the Chinese—a greater appreciation of the duties and rights of a Christian and strong Government towards a heathen, weak, and independent one, and towards whom we are bound to act in accordance with the letter and spirit of our treaty of perpetual friendship, and there is a growing idea of a common brotherhood existing among us, &c. Our general belief in their inability is probably derived from their own frequent admissions of their inability to control provincial authorities. Our old policy, before that of co-operation came into existence, was based upon this assumption. But it is to be observed that it is always in their own interest, and only in relation to foreigners, or where they think they can shrink responsibility, that they make these admissions. Looking at the nature of their Government, absolute central despotic power appears a necessity. For my part, at any rate, I cannot conceive of the reverse. And in practice we find it so. Within the last two years or so, we have had abundant proof of the power of the Government at Peking—acknowledged to be weaker, probably, than almost at any past time—and felt at the utmost extremities of the vast Empire. A passing notice has been taken of these by the Press in China, but as these instances have been opposed to our preconceived ideas, they have been looked upon rather as the exceptions than as the rule.

When it suits their purpose the power of the Government is absolute and unlimited, and the most distant satrap must obey the summons from the Dragon Throne and the vermilion pencil of the "Son of Heaven," the Imperial Ruler of "all under heaven." But of what avail would such decided action *at present* serve but to enrich our Indian exchequer. So long as they are not left free to act we have no right to judge of their inability. To admit their inability to stop the trade, the habit, or even the native growth, would be, in other words, to admit the inferiority of our military power to the Chinese. We are bound by the demands of Indian finance, and Treaty stipulations (extracted by force, or the fear of it) come now to our aid in upholding the system. It is the irresistible power of our arms alone that has riveted the evil upon them and to this day prevents them, in my opinion, from throwing it off. If, after the abolition of our monopoly, and the withdrawal of our Opium clause from the Treaty, the Chinese Government takes no action, then our *further* responsibility is removed, and we shall then be in a position to judge of their ability, or otherwise to put down the evil.—Apologising for trespassing to such an extent on your valuable space, I am, &c.,

J. DUDGEON.

OUR RELATIONS WITH CHINA.

(DAILY TELEGRAPH.)

Never in the long and chequered history of our diplomatic and commercial relations with China—now covering a period of eighty years—have events appeared more auspicious than at the present moment. Our past experience of that country has been mingled in character. Until recently but little pains were taken by the English people to comprehend its social and political institutions; and, on the other hand, the traditional contempt indulged by the "Celestials" for foreigners, as belonging to a grade of existence altogether inferior to themselves, had hitherto rendered hopeless any reasonable appreciation of us on their part. The consequence is that our official representatives have been continuously treated by them with alternate treachery and insult. Their persistent ignorance of our temper and strength has inspired them with the vain belief that by occasional massacres of Englishmen, and attacks upon British property in China, they would eventually succeed in worrying us into withdrawing from the Empire. With a view probably to facilitate this object, an Imperial Edict was issued in 1840 interdicting all trade and intercourse with England for ever. Since that period we have been engaged in a succession of skirmishes with them, in every instance with results advantageous to Great Britain. Out of these brief encounters came several important treaties, including those of Nankin, Tien-tsin, Peking, and recently the highly important Chefoo Convention. At each step in the negotiations of our Government with China from the first we have successfully aimed at enforcing our claims upon their respect and teaching them the futility of attempting to contend with us. Their overweening conceit and national exclusiveness have offered a serious impediment to their being

apt pupils even in the school of adversity in which we have exercised them. But though their progress towards reasonable ideas has been slow, it has been sure—a fact which is signally verified in their termination of the Yunnan difficulty, and the concession of our demands consequent thereon, without a war. This is notably a hopeful augury. Indeed, we are entirely justified in the assertion that British interests never had a more solid footing in China than at present; and there is good reason to believe that collisions between that country and England in the future will be few and far between. Nor is it Utopian to anticipate that instead of British trade being confined to a few treaty ports or extended, as in the past, at the point of the sword, its development will be spontaneously sanctioned and gradually encouraged by the Peking authorities throughout the length and breadth of the Empire. The prelude leading to this consummation already appears in the safety of British subjects travelling under passport, which was guaranteed in the Convention signed by Sir Thomas Wade and Li-Hung-Chang; and by the last French China mail we have intelligence that an elaborate proclamation respecting the rights of foreigners in the Empire had been issued by all the Chinese Provincial Governments in conformity with one of the requirements of the Chefoo Treaty.

That proclamation, according to the terms of the Chinese Commissioner, is required to be posted in every prefecture, sub-prefecture, and district throughout the Empire, so that every household may be acquainted with the relations which the Chinese henceforth sustain with foreigners. We are pleased to learn that the document referred to leaves nothing to be desired as a clear declaration of the political rights to be enjoyed by foreign subjects passing through the country, and we cannot but trust that the effect of the promulgation upon the hundreds of millions under whose notice it will be brought may be to break down their foolish prejudice against people of other nationalities, engendered by their jealous seclusion from the rest of mankind, and fostered mainly by the bigotry of the literati class among them. The official antecedents of the Chinese authorities compel us, of course, to receive with wholesome suspicion their promises of good faith. Some go so far as to say that the proclamation in question will never be posted. Nor can we be surprised at the incredulity of such persons when we remember that the Chinese violated their pledge to publish in the *Peking Gazette* the Treaty of Tientsin, concluded by Lord Elgin, and the fulfilment of that stipulation has never been enforced. We cannot forget, moreover, that they not only refrained from issuing any official account of the formal audience on that occasion, but, in marking their haughty contempt for our nation, they forwarded a satirical report, which was promulgated in regions far distant from the Treaty ports, in the hope that they might thus cast ridicule upon us without the risk of detection. The British Minister himself—who understands Chinese peculiarities as well as any one—seems to have regarded the mere insertion of the arrangement respecting the proclamation in question as insufficient, and with admirable forethought had the following words added to the clause authorising the proclamation:—"For two years to come officers will be sent by the British Minister to different places in the provinces to see that it is posted." With that precaution it is impossible that the minds of the Mandarins and the people in the various districts can remain any longer benighted with reference to the political status of foreigners, or that the Central Government will be able to impose on us. Another favourable omen that the country will now be steadily opened up to European civilisation lies in the immense influence which Li-Hung-Chang cannot fail to wield for a considerable period in the councils of the nation in all matters affecting foreign relations. That dignitary is the Governor of two important provinces, one of which contains the capital. He is a man of high scholarly attainments and great administrative ability. His present official position has been reached wholly by merit, his first introduction to Government circles having been due to the illustrious place he won in passing his examinations for the highest University degrees. Though learned, he is thoroughly a man of the world, and totally free from the narrow-mindedness which, as a rule, characterises the high-class scholars in China.

He cultivates an intelligent interest in many of the arts and sciences of the "barbarians," and is shrewd enough to perceive the benefit which would accrue to his country from the adoption of Western ideas. At his instigation the State has entered into an agreement to purchase the pioneer railway between Shanghai and Woosung. Only a few years since a body of English capitalists undertook to provide a railroad at their own cost, and present it to the late Emperor; but the offer met with an unqualified rejection. At length, however, the thin end of the wedge has been inserted, and now "Celestial" prejudice is so far overcome that the Government itself consents to become proprietor of the first and only line in China. Some are so sceptical as to suppose that the object of buying the railway is to secure its destruction; but for this opinion there is no real foundation. On the contrary, we believe that the advantages of the new method of land locomotion will become more palpable every day, and, following in the wake of steamers, Armstrong guns, and Snider rifles, all of which are now in use among the Chinese, ere many years elapse railways will no doubt intersect the Empire at all points. An interesting sign indicating the improved attitude of the Peking authorities towards Great Britain transpired on the departure of Sir Thomas Wade for England in November. It is stated that the Imperial Government wished to send a large mounted escort of soldiers with him as a guard of honour. This intelligence reads like romance when contrasted with the reception Lord Amherst met with early in the present century. The British Envoy was obliged to return home without being able to gain access to the Court, because he refused to make the prostration of the *Kotou*, lest by doing so he should compromise the majesty of England. There is yet another important novelty in the relations between the two countries. China is to be represented by an Ambassador in London. The Treaty of 1858 included among its conditions the residence of a Chinese Minister in England, but in this particular it was not kept. We are now informed, however, on good authority, that His Excellency Kuoh-Sung-tao was to follow our Ambassador, after a short interval, *en route* for this country, and he is now presumably on his way. He

is to be accompanied by his wife and a retinue of thirty-two persons, including four amanuenses of talent and experience. The new Plenipotentiary is said to be an old official at the Court, and is distinguished by culture and politeness. Rumour also informs us that an ex-Secretary in the Board of Punishments has been appointed as joint Ambassador with Kuoh, and that, in consequence of his selection for the post, he has been raised to the third degree of nobility. The Chinese are a reading people, and the accounts which the Embassy will send back of what they see and hear in this country are sure to be studied with attentive curiosity throughout the Empire. By this means we cannot doubt that correct knowledge of England and the English will continue to spread until the last vestige of dislike to us has been subdued.

(PALL MALL GAZETTE.)

The official text of this Convention has at last reached us. We are still in ignorance whether it will be ratified by Her Majesty's Government, or share the fate of the Convention of 1869. But if the dissatisfaction of the mercantile communities in China and the Foreign Ministers accredited at Peking with the arrangements made is to be held, as in the former case, to afford sufficient ground for the non-ratification, it is not by any means certain that it will escape this danger. It is not difficult, however, to form a fair estimate of its intrinsic merits apart from the dissatisfaction of those on the spot, or the decision which may ultimately be taken by the British Government. It is somewhat curiously worded and arranged for a document of this nature. It is divided into three sections. This is so far advantageous that it facilitates the examination of its principal provisions under distinct heads: "The Settlement of the Yunnan Case," "Official Intercourse," and "Trade." There is also a separate article forming one of the most important concessions obtained from the Chinese. As regards the first section—the settlement of the Yunnan case—it would be unfair to quarrel with Sir Thomas Wade because he has not succeeded in obtaining the only satisfaction which would have fully met the justice of the case—the punishment of those who were really responsible for the murder at Manwane and the subsequent attack on Colonel Browne's party. That we have entirely failed in this is manifest. Although Mr. Grosvenor's report is still pigeon-holed at the Foreign-office, it requires no divination to be certain that he failed in bringing the true criminals or any of the responsible authors of the outrage to justice. Failing in this, we are glad to know that Sir Thomas Wade rejected the proposed execution of mere instruments and subordinates of low degree. No one could be better aware than our Minister at Peking of the corrupt procedure of Chinese Courts in such cases, and he very properly declined to accept victims instead of justice. There remained only, among possible sources of satisfaction, the concession of that right of commercial intercourse across the border of Yunnan to prevent which the murders had been committed, and a fine as compensation to the relatives of the killed, and in reimbursement of the cost of enforcing redress. But there should have been no question of a money compensation. A heavy fine levied on the town or district in which acts of violence and treachery against foreigners are perpetrated might bear a very different complexion, and be a guarantee for future safety. But a sum of money exacted from the Chinese Government, to be paid to the relatives of the deceased, and not as a measure needful to future security, can only bear one construction to the Chinese. To them it is blood-money—price paid for lives taken; that is to say, an easy means of compounding for bloodshed or massacre, at any time. As regards "the settlement of the Yunnan case," therefore, the punishment of the real offenders has been relinquished as unattainable; and in lieu, our Minister has accepted a money indemnity, the despatch of a Chinese Embassy with a mission of apology, following the precedent to the French after the massacre at Tientsin, and the establishment of a frontier trade between Burmah and Yunnan. The last is the real satisfaction obtained. In connection with this should be considered another concession placed in a separate article. This article sanctions a right of transit through Thibet from China to India, across the northern and western provinces, or the reverse route from India, through Thibet and Mongolia to China. Thus the great barrier hitherto maintained by Chinese obstructiveness, preventing all access into the territories of her tributaries, has been removed in principle at least. This object was at an early period in these negotiations insisted upon in the *Pall Mall Gazette* as the best satisfaction for an act of war in a time of peace. Of course, Nepal and Bhoutan being precisely in the same situation as regards our Indian and Chinese frontiers, as Thibet and Burmah, it will follow that the same rule must be recognised; and thus the obstacles hitherto so persistently interposed to bar any access through these contiguous States to Central Asia must disappear, unless our Indian Government should be more lax in profiting by a legitimate opening that is at all probable. These are solid advantages, and had Sir Thomas Wade's negotiations led to no further results, his time would have been well spent. But under the section of trade there are other concessions of nearly equal importance, which could only have been obtained with great difficulty. The opening of five additional ports, but more especially of Ichang, in the province of Hupei, in the very heart of China, and as far up the Yangtze as steamers can navigate, with a right of residence for an authorised British officer—consul in effect if not in name—at Chung-king, to watch the condition of British trade in Sze-Chuen, the richest province in China, is an immense stride, quite as great as Lord Elgin's in opening the Yangtze to foreign trade as far as Hankow at the end of the second war in 1858. The other three ports to be opened are less important, though that of Pei-hai, in Kwangtung, may become of considerable value as opening a new route to the interior of the southern province of which Canton has hitherto been the only mart for foreigners. Landing-places at several intervening points on the Yangtze are another concession which will tend to facilitate the traffic of the great river. These are the salient and most certain of the advantages obtained under the head of trade. As for the several clauses referring to transit dues, the *quæstio reata* of so many years' standing, we do not perceive that there is any material advance towards a satisfactory solution, but only a reference to some future arrangements

that "will secure the Chinese Government against abuse of the privilege." The foreign import trade is the one great grievance which has foiled all the efforts of negotiators from 1843 to the present time to remedy. Sir Thomas Wade, therefore, can scarcely be blamed for a failure which he shares with all his predecessors. Without a radical reform, involving changes as sweeping as those now proposed for Turkey, nothing can be effective. We have enumerated all the really valuable and important concessions obtained from the Chinese in these negotiations, and it is only now necessary to glance at what has been paid from them in return. Beyond what we have noticed as the price of our footing on the Yunnan border in the miscarriage of justice, there is little to object to as regards the interests of trade, unless it be the recognition of the Lekin tax, and the right of the Chinese to levy it at the consular ports. This has always hitherto been opposed as contrary to treaty. The arrangement to this effect entered into by Sir Thomas Wade in respect to opium will, no doubt, materially increase the Chinese revenue, and at the same time must seriously interfere with the facilities hitherto enjoyed for the evasion of duty after it passed into the hands of the Chinese purchaser. That it will *pro tanto* check the sale, by increasing the price to the consumer, cannot be doubted, and we are not surprised, therefore, that the British merchants do not approve of it. They strenuously resisted a trifling increase of thirty taels per chest (some 2½ per cent.), contemplated in a former convention, as fatal to their interests, and the influence of this arrangement to bond the opium and protect the Chinese Customs from evasion and smuggling is likely to be felt much more severely than a tax of three times the amount above specified, with unlimited facilities for smuggling. Considering, however, the great and solid advantages which have been obtained in other directions by the Chefoo Convention, it would be bad policy on the part of either merchants or Government to throw away these because the other clause is not altogether to their liking or advantage. The chief objection we see is the possibility that, other Powers not being bound by Sir Thomas Wade's arrangements, foreigners may refuse to bond their opium, and create a favoured position for themselves as dealers in opium to the prejudice of the British importer. We pass over the section which treats of the official intercourse and diplomatic relations of the two countries. The value of these clauses is very doubtful, and depends entirely upon the way in which the Chinese may choose to give effect to the terms.

GERMANY. (FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

HAMBURG, DEC. 26.

We are now in the midst of winter, and, indeed, a good strong winter it is which has established itself here, the thermometer marking 12, 15, 18 degrees of frost, while the landscape is covered a foot high with snow. The river is completely blocked up with ice, and the riverside trade is therefore at a standstill. Fortunately, when the frost first set in, during the night from the 19th to the 20th inst., we had a very heavy snowfall, and the next morning a very welcome snow-cover was visible, disagreeable for the city, but of the greatest value for the fields and the protection of the young crops, which no doubt would have perished had this hard frost set in without snow. That the past Christmas, under such circumstances, has been a very poor one, especially for the labouring classes, need scarcely be mentioned; but it is to be hoped that the prevailing wind, which at present is from the Russian quarter, will not long continue, and that milder weather will soon arrive. In Russia the frost is terrible; at Moscow the thermometer has been down as far as 39 deg. below zero (Celsius), at St. Petersburg to 37, and this severe cold has already lasted several weeks.

The English shipping trade has suffered another check. The steamship Iceland, trading between Liverpool, and Hamburg, has stranded on the coast of Holland, near the Texel, and it is feared will prove a total loss. Another loss has to be registered amongst the Hamburg steamers; the John Sauber, quite a new boat, belonging to Hamburg, has been totally wrecked on the coast of England, near Shields. Of both vessels the crews were all saved.

In Denmark and Jutland fearful easterly gales have again prevailed, accompanied by tremendous snow, which has stopped the traffic over the roads and railways. For nearly a whole week the communication between Hamburg and Copenhagen has been interrupted. Even telegraphing was impracticable for several days, and all news from the North was completely stopped. To-day letters and newspapers have again come in.

The Imperial Parliament was closed on Friday last by the Emperor in person, but only about 150 members were present, the others having already left Berlin to join their families for the Christmas holidays. The Emperor in his speech delivered on this occasion pointed to the great satisfaction felt by him as well as by the whole population of the Empire at the passing of the new Judicature Laws, voted by the Reichstag at the close of its session. The Emperor also referred to the efforts made by him and his Government towards a peaceful solution of the Eastern Question, and expressed a renewed hope that a war might be avoided. How far this hope is justified the first month of the approaching New Year will certainly show.

A very sad disaster occurred a few days since in the north-east of the Empire, the dykes of the river Nogas having broken, causing a great inundation. The safety of the town of Elbing is very much threatened, and the railway to that town has narrowly escaped destruction. A great deal of property has been destroyed by the flood, and the inhabitants of the submerged land will have probably to suffer another inundation in the spring, as the broken dykes cannot be repaired now, in consequence of the prevailing frost. Committees have been constituted all over the Empire to raise a fund for the suffering people.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

The approaching holidays have not failed to make their influence felt during the past week, and business has been of a restricted character, although for some articles a rather lively demand has been manifested. Money remains very abundant, the rate of discount being 3 per cent. to 4½ per cent.

COTTON.—The quieter tendency apparent at the close of last week continued during the first part of this week, but afterwards a better demand set in on rather encouraging reports from Liverpool and America.

SPICES.—A rather better demand has prevailed, and Mace and Nutmegs have been firm; quotations for the former m.5 to 5½; for the latter m.5 to m.6 per kilo. Cloves have maintained their value; Zanzibar quality are quoted m.142 to 144 per 50 kilo. Pepper is more inquired for; Singapore quality m.41 to 41½; Penang m.37 to 37½ per 50 kilo.

RICE has remained very firm, but transactions, as usual towards the end of the year, have been on a limited scale. Quotations are:—Japan, m.10½ to 13½; Java, m.12 to 14; ditto Table, m.16 to 24; Bengal, m.10 to 14; Siam, Madras, Ballam, &c., m.8½ to 11; Rangoon, m.9½ to 10½; Bassein, m.9½ to 10; Arracan, m.9 to 9½; Maulmain, m.9½ to 10½; Saigon, m.8½ to 9 per 50 kilo.

TEA is quiet in tone, without any transactions of importance. The following are the quotations:—Bohe, m.0.70 to 0.85; Congou, ord. to good ord., m.0.90 to 1.05; do. middling to fine, m.1.25 to 4; Souchong, ordinary to good middling, m.1.10 to 1.70; do. fine, m.2.60 to 4; Caper, m.1.50 to 2; Pouchong, m.0.90 to 3; Peccó, ordinary to good middling, m.1.80 to 2.40; ditto fine, m.3.80 to 5; ditto Orange, m.1.25 to 3.40; Haysanschin, m.0.90 to 1.80; Tonkay, m.0.90 to 1.80; Young Haysan, m.1.10 to 2.70; Haysan, m.1.70 to 3.60; Imperial, country, m.1.50 to 3.60; ditto, Canton-made, m.0.90 to 1.70; Gunpowder, country, m.1.70 to 3.60; ditto Canton-made, m.0.85 to 2 per ½-kilo.

SHIPPING.

It is a standing rule that heavy frosts here are accompanied with strong easterly winds, which drive the waters out of the river and prevent the tide from flowing in. Such is now the case, and the icebreaker, drawing over fourteen feet of water, has been compelled to go down the river, as there is not sufficient water on the several bars between here and Brunshausen. No steamers coming or going (on account of the low tides), the frost had fair play, and on the third night, the temperature being as low as 18°, the ice formed a bridge over the river sufficiently strong to be passable. The icebreaker in the meantime is very active in the lower part of the river, where many steamers are entangled, some of them being placed in imminent danger. The steamship Neapel, from the Mediterranean with fruit, &c., lost her screw in the ice, but was assisted out by the icebreaker, and will be brought to Glueckstadt. The Hamburg American Company has several of its steamships below, and as two are on their way to New York, and two homeward bound, no interruption of this line by frost has to be feared. Sailing vessels arriving have to take refuge at Cuxhaven, whereas steamers will have to go into Glueckstadt, and send their cargoes here by railway. As soon as the wind shifts to the W. and N.W., we shall have better tides here, and the ice can be destroyed by the icebreaker rendering the harbour once more accessible to steamers. The Tai Lee Capt. Stoesel, has sailed for Nicolaefsk, and the J. H. Wappaeus Diedrichsen, for Australia.

HOLLAND.

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

AMSTERDAM, DEC. 27.

The existence of the Cabinet is secured for another year. The Budgets were carried by the Second Chamber, although the Ministers were subjected to a very hot fire. They were attacked in the first place by those members who might be expected to be their warmest supporters, but the Liberals also criticised sharply. The *bête noire* was the policy of the Minister of the Financial Department. Several members demonstrated that the financial state of our country is most unsatisfactory. The Minister defended himself and his Budget, but the debate has thrown very little light on the real state of matters. It only proved that much can be done by *l'art de grouper les chiffres*. Of more interest, however, was the statement that Mr. Van der Heim, who has been Minister for two years, had done nothing to improve our anomalous system of taxation. He promised much, but has done nothing, and, what is worse, probably nothing will be done as long as he remains in office. The Budget of War raised a good deal of justifiable protest, the sum and substance of which is that enormous sums had been taken from our Treasury, whilst our means of defence remain unimproved. The debate upon the Colonial Budget was of a very trifling interest. The old question was again brought forward, viz., why Mr. Mees continues to belong to this Cabinet. Two sittings were taken up with a debate upon this one point.

The topic of the day is the fact that before the Chamber adjourned the Minister of the Home Department laid before the members a Bill to reorganise the law relating to lower class education. It is not yet printed, and the statements which are in circulation with regard to its provisions are very vague. I hope to be able to forward some authentic details in my next letter.

News is very scanty. Politics and business are alike at a standstill, and people think only of skating, the frost being very severe.

AMSTERDAM, DEC. 28.

The *Utrechtsch Dagblad* prints a protest by General Van Swieten against the articles recently published by the ex-Minister of the Colonial Department, Mr. Van Goltstein, entitled "Atjeh since 1874," by which the skill of the General was impugned. The writer says:—"Our war with Atjeh must be divided into two periods. During the first (without speaking of the first expedition) the war was continued according to my principles and plans, approved and determined by Governor-General Loudon, and Mr. Frausen Van de Putte, and the Ministry, to which the King agreed. This expedition met with such success that General Pel was able to declare, when Mr. Loudon left Java, that—"Our position in Atjeh is quite safe. We possess the centrum ("heart") of Atjeh. We can now afford to wait for what may happen." The second period when the war was continued upon the principles of Mr. Van Goltstein and Mr. Van Lansberge was one of defeat, as was shown by the book written by Mr. de Rochemont."

Horace would have said, regarding this protest, *Proiect ampullas et sequipedalia verba.*" The same paper publishes another protest by Mr. J. de Rochemont against the accusations made by Mr. Van Goltstein against him and his book about Atjeh.

A thaw has set in, and the temperature has become very mild.

PRODUCE MARKETS.

Notwithstanding the very advanced season the trade in Colonial Produce has remained very satisfactory, which must be ascribed to the mild temperature. Very important transactions have taken place in several articles, whilst prices have advanced. During the last few days, however, we have had a very sharp frost, so that the shipping trade is completely checked. This, of course, will cause a reaction.

COFFEE.—The market has remained in a very satisfactory condition, and trade has been brisk. Only a few lots out of the last Traving Company's auction have been offered, holders declining to operate without a further advance. Good ordinary Java is quoted 54c. to 54½.

TEA.—Very quiet, though prices are well maintained. In January will be brought under the hammer two cargoes of China; the brokers' valuations will be published in a few days.

SUGAR.—Very firm, with only limited transactions, in consequence of the small stock. Nothing can be bought lower than f.9 under October value. Since my last report about 5,000 krang. have changed hands at f.6½ to f.8 under October value. Floating cargoes will arrive shortly.

JAVA TOBACCO.—In the last fortnight about 7,000 lbs. Java were sold either by public tender or in auctions. The stock includes 9,322 lbs. Java, 430 lbs. Sumatra, and 300 lbs. East India.

SPICES.—Very firm, but very quiet. A good demand, however, has prevailed for Moole Nutmegs. Mace and Cloves dull. Since my last report 1,300 lbs. Black Pepper have been sold.

RICE.—Very firm, but rather dull, as is usual at this season. The sales have been 2,465 bags Boedhi Radja table, ex Madura, at f.11. Per John H. Kemball have arrived about 25,090 bags Japan.

COTTONS.—A better tone prevails in the market, and several lots have found buyers at higher prices.

RATTANS.—Only 75 pieces were sold.

CUTCH.—About 40,000 kilograms have changed hands at secret prices.

INDIGO.—Has met with a steady demand. About 200 chests have been taken from the market at former prices. The stock includes 1,056 chests.

TIN.—Dull; holders are inclining to operate at lower prices, but, nevertheless, it is very difficult to find operators. Banca is quoted at f.45; Billiton at f.44½, which is nearly f.1 lower than last week.

HIDES.—Several lots have been sold, but at what prices is not known.

Legal.

COURT OF APPEAL.—THE CHINESE INDEMNITY FUND.

RUSTOMJEE V. THE QUEEN.—PETITION OF RIGHT.

This was a petition of right by a native merchant, a British subject, who had suffered, as he alleged, losses in the war with China, to recover his share of a sum of money paid by the Emperor of China in 1842 as an indemnity for such losses. The petition set forth the facts, in substance, thus:—He had carried on business as a merchant at Hong Kong, where the Chinese Government had licensed certain Chinese merchants to trade with British merchants within its dominions, and foreign merchants were permitted to trade with such licensed merchants only. These licensed merchants formed a corporate body, called a "Co-hong," and one of its incidents was that all its members were jointly liable for the debt of any of its members to any foreign merchant, and on his failure to pay the liability was enforced by the issuing of an edict directing the Co-hong to investigate the claim of the creditor, and to settle it if found correct. When the investigation had been made, and the amount had been settled, an entry of it was made in the books of the Co-hong, and then payment was enforced. The petitioner had business transactions with a Chinese merchant, a member of the Co-hong, who in September, 1838, was indebted to him in the sum of \$34,000, and on his bankruptcy the debt became due from the Co-hong, and the usual edict was issued to inquire into the claim. During the inquiry, however, and before the claim could be entered in the book, troubles broke out between the two Governments, and war was soon afterwards declared, and the British merchants at Canton, including the petitioner, were arrested and imprisoned, and afterwards expelled from China. He sent the particulars of his claim to Captain Elliott, the Superintendent of Trade of British merchants in China, at Canton, who promised that the claim should be registered in the books of the Superintendent of Trade, and that the British Government would compel the Chinese Government to pay the debt when terms were arranged between the two Governments. At the close of the war certain articles of a Treaty were negotiated, and one of the articles was the payment by the Emperor to the Queen of a sum sufficient to cover the debts due from the Co-hong to British merchants. During the negotiations, in 1841, Sir Henry Pottinger, who had succeeded Captain Elliott, arrived at Macao, and promised the petitioner and others that their claims should be insisted on against the Chinese Government, and that the amount should be paid to them when received from the Chinese Government. On the 26th of August, 1842, a Treaty of Peace was signed, whereby the Emperor agreed to pay to the Queen the sum of \$3,000,000 as and for the amount of debts due to British subjects by "Hong" merchants. That sum, he alleged, was computed on the basis of the accounts of claims sent in to Captain Elliott, of which the petitioner's claim was one, and the money was paid to the Plenipotentiary for the purpose of paying those claims, as he had agreed, and contracted with the British merchants, of whom the petitioner was one, to do. The petitioner, therefore, prayed that the Queen would be pleased to direct payment of the sum due to him,

with interest. To this the Attorney-General of the day (Sir R. Baggalay), on the part of the Crown, demurred—that is, admitting the facts stated to be true, denied that they were sufficient to constitute a claim against the Crown. The Court of Queen's Bench, constituted of the Lord Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Blackburn, and Mr. Justice Lush, gave judgment in favour of the Crown, and the petitioner appealed from that judgment. The case was argued early in the present sittings, before Lord Coleridge, Justices of Appeal Mellish, Brett, and Anphlett, by Mr. Benjamin, for the petitioner, and the Attorney-General for the Crown. The Court had taken time to consider their judgment, and their judgment was now delivered.

Lord Coleridge delivered a written judgment in favour of the Crown. He said: This is a claim which, if it ever had any foundation, was not brought forward until after the lapse of thirty-six years, and it is of a kind never brought forward before. Something like it was attempted in the case of the Baron de Bode, which, however, received no countenance from the Courts, and was determined on a ground not applicable to the present. For the purpose of this judgment it may be assumed that the Chinese merchants did owe a considerable sum to the petitioner. While the correctness of it was under investigation, however, and before, according to the course of practice, any conclusive result was arrived at or the amount ascertained, the war broke out, and the petitioner was expelled. He alleges that Mr. Elliott, Superintendent of Trade, and Sir H. Pottinger, who succeeded him, and, as Plenipotentiary, negotiated the peace, recognised the justice of his claims, and that they promised him that the Chinese Government should be compelled to pay the money, and that it should be paid to him; that afterwards, in the Treaty, one of the articles stipulated that a sum of \$3,000,000 should be paid by the Emperor; and that this sum was computed upon the basis of the claims made, and for the purpose of paying the merchants, and, among others, the petitioner, the sums they claimed. To that claim the Attorney-General demurred, on the part of the Crown, and on that demur the Court of Queen's Bench gave judgment for the Crown. We think that judgment was right, upon two grounds. First, the Treaty itself was referred to, and the article in question stipulated that the Emperor should pay to the British Government \$3,000,000, on account of debts due to British subjects by "Hong" Merchants, insolvent, who owed large sums to them. The money, therefore, was paid, not for the British subjects, but "on account" of debts due to them, no specific sums being ever agreed upon, either between the two Governments or between the merchants and the British Government. It is not, therefore, correct to say that the money was paid for the purpose of paying this claim. It was never received for any such purpose, and, therefore, on the true construction of the Treaty itself, without reference to higher and wider considerations, the case of the claimant must fail. But, secondly, on those higher and wider considerations as to which we ought not to abstain from giving an opinion, the claim of the petitioner also fails. I assent to the reasoning of the Judges in the Court below. The making of peace and war are the highest acts of the prerogative of the Crown, and the terms on which a peace is to be made are in the absolute discretion of the sovereign. If, therefore, Mr. Elliott or Sir Henry Pottinger did promise that these claims should be paid, he promised that to which he had no authority to pledge the Crown. The Queen might or might not have made the peace upon these terms; she might or might not have insisted upon any money being paid; she acted throughout in her sovereign character and out of her own inherent authority, and as in making the Treaty, so in performing it she is beyond the scope of municipal law, and her acts are not to be examined in her own Courts. It was a Treaty between the Emperor and the Queen, and though they might complain of an infraction of it, their subjects cannot. We do not say that in no circumstances can the Crown be a trustee or agent; but it seems to us that, in all that relates to the making or performing of a Treaty with another Sovereign, the Crown cannot be in the position of a trustee or agent for subjects. We do not doubt that on the payment of the money a duty was imposed upon the Sovereign to administer it properly; but it was a duty to act as Sovereign according to the advice of her Ministers, and not the duty of an agent to the principal, or of a trustee to a *cestui que trust*. If there was a failure to perform the duty, it was one which Parliament only could correct, and not one with which the Courts of Law could deal. It is not any part of our duty to inquire whether there has been such a failure of performance. In this country twenty-five years would surely not have elapsed without attention being called to the unjust withholding of money by the Crown from a British subject. But it is to Parliament only that the subject in such a case can resort, and for these reasons we consider the judgment of the Court below was right, and must be affirmed, with costs.

Naval and Military.

It is officially announced that Rear-Admiral Lambert, with the Detached Squadron from the China station, will leave Singapore on the 27th ult., *via* Straits of Sunda, for the Cape of Good Hope and England.

The Navy has lost a distinguished officer by the death of Captain George Fiott Day, C.B., V.C., which occurred a few days ago, after a protracted illness, at Weston-super-Mare, aged 55. He entered the Navy in 1833, and passed the usual examination in 1838. Before he obtained his commission as lieutenant he saw active service aboard Her Majesty's ship Benbow, Captain Houston Stewart, in the Mediterranean, and commanded the barge of his ship in the attack on the town of Torlosa, on the coast of Syria, and was present in the Benbow at the bombardment of St. Jean d'Acre in 1840. He was appointed lieutenant Dec. 13, 1845, and, after various services, was, in Nov., 1851, appointed lieutenant-commander of Her Majesty's steamer Locust, with which he

served in 1864 in the Baltic fleet, under Rear-Admiral Sir Charles Napier. In the following year he proceeded to join the fleet in the Mediterranean, where he was appointed lieutenant-commander of the Recruit, in which ship he gained the highest distinction for his gallantry. He rendered important service at the disembarkation of troops at the capture of Kertch, and also in the Azov expedition and destruction of Government stores at Taganrog in 1855. He distinguished himself by his gallantry performed on September 17 and 21 in the Sea of Azov, for which he was decorated with the Victoria Cross, and was among the first recipients of that honoured decoration. In consideration of his meritorious service, he was promoted to the rank of commander. In May, 1856, he was appointed commander of Her Majesty's ship Firefly, in which he was employed on the West Coast of Africa. He was promoted to Captain in August, 1861, but, in consequence of impaired health, was compelled to decline active employment, and in February, 1867, was placed on the Captains' Retired List. In further recognition of his valuable professional services, he was nominated a companion of the Order of the Bath in May, 1875.

Full details of the proceedings of the Court of Inquiry respecting the loss of the troopship St. Lawrence have now been received. The Court found that the loss of the ship is attributable to a strong north-easterly current, but that Captain Hyde ought not to have relied on the report brought in at three o'clock in the morning that land was visible fifteen miles distant, as he should have known that such estimate was untrustworthy, and that even if true as indicated he was in the wrong position. He ought to have then come on deck and cast the lead, which would have disclosed the peril. In consideration of the previous high character and exemplary conduct, however, of Captain Hyde, the sentence was mitigated to suspension of his certificate for six months. It was decided that the chief officer, Mr. Shelton, was guilty of a grave error of judgment and want of promptitude in not taking any means to verify the distance of land sighted, to alter the ship's course, or to take any precautions. Had he done so, the Court held the rocks would undoubtedly have been sighted or avoided. His certificate was suspended for twelve months. Messrs. Bevan and Newton, second and third officers, were severely censured for laxity.

Lieut.-General George Campbell, C.B., colonel of the 85th Light Infantry, died on the 23rd ult. He earned considerable distinction during the Indian Mutiny of 1857. Under the gallant Nicholson he commanded the 52nd Light Infantry at the defeat and rout of the Sealkote Mutineers on the banks of the Ravee in July of that year, an event which so greatly contributed to save the Punjab between the Jhelum and the Sutlej; and in a few days after marched upon Delhi, where at the assault he commanded the third column, consisting of his own and two native regiments, with which he rushed in through the Cashmere Gate as soon as it was blown up. After his retirement from the 52nd General Campbell was employed successively as brigadier at Aldershot and in command of the Cork district. This event leaves vacant the colonelcy of the 85th, and along with recent deaths among general officers of the old Indian Army will occasion a considerable batch of promotions throughout the Service.

The sinking, for the first time in the history of England, of torpedoes and submarine mines which has just commenced around the forts of the Thames and English coasts has induced a feeling of hesitation on the part of captains, crews, and owners of British and foreign vessels approaching and leaving our shores. The science of submarine warfare is as yet in an experimental condition, and though the merchant captains and others are assured that the electric instruments for firing from the shore are in safe and trustworthy hands, they naturally wish that the torpedoes were not there. The experience hitherto gained in submarine experiments is that a much greater quantity of explosive power is necessary to form any real barrier to vessels entering the Thames and English harbours than was ever anticipated, and that even when a river like the Tharne is effectually defended by torpedoes it is not expected that a hostile fleet could be prevented forcing its way up unless the torpedoes are accompanied by the firing of powerful artillery from the forts.

The Lords of the Admiralty have issued the following circular to facilitate the payment of ships' companies when serving abroad:—“My Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty have, with the view of facilitating the despatch of public business, been pleased to direct that in future the approval of commanders-in-chief to the demand for cash made on the shore establishments by the paymasters of Her Majesty's ships is to be dispensed with, the approval of the captains being considered sufficient. My lords have also been pleased, with the concurrence of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, to direct that, on foreign stations where the money for naval service is obtained from the Commissariat Department, the demands are to be sent to, and the cash obtained from, that department direct, without the intervention of the yard accountant officers. Where the money is procured by bills drawn by the yard accountant, the demands from ships are to be sent to the yard direct, as at home.”

English artillerists are directing their attention to the latest invention of Herr Krupp—viz., an armoured gun which does away with the recoil of heavy siege, coast, and naval guns. When fired, the new armoured gun remains fixed in its original position, so that when once pointed re-laying after every shot is entirely dispensed with and a rapidity of fire—60 rounds in 15 minutes—is attained. The gun is armoured by a metal sphere being screwed round the muzzle, the thickness of the armour corresponding to the calibre of the weapon. In firing from forts the size of the embrasures is reduced to that of the bore of the gun, and the smoke, which has hitherto made a prolonged stay in the casemates insupportable, is blown away by having to remain outside. With the great stability of the gun fewer gunners and less space are required. Extensive trials are about to be made against these armoured guns, with the object of determining what chances there are of an enemy disabling a weapon thus protected.

A corvette of a novel type designed by Herr Koch, of the German Admiralty, is about to be launched at the Imperial dock of Ellerbeck.

The vessel measures 300 feet in length, 60 feet in width, and 27 feet in depth. She is to have only six inches of armour, and to be armed with six of the heaviest guns. Her engines will be of 6,000-horse power. The corvette will also have a ram. Two special features of the new ship will be the entire absence of rigging and the protection of the main deck by armour corresponding to that on the ship's sides.

Major H. A. M'Callum, barrack-master at the Gosport Division of Royal Marines, has been placed on the retired list of his rank under the provisions of Her Majesty's Order in Council date 1 Feb. 22, 1870. Major M'Callum entered the Royal Marines in 1837, served in Syria in 1840, was present at the capture of Beyrouth and fall of St. Jean d'Acre, and served throughout the Russian War in 1854-55. He has received the Crimean medal and clasps and the Turkish Order of the Medjidie.

The appointment of Aide-de-Camp to the Queen, vacant by the retirement, announced some time since, of Colonel Bourchier, V.C., will be filled by Lieut.-Col. H. A. Welman, now on the staff at Colchester, who, after just thirty-seven years' service, including the campaign in the Sutlej as Adjutant of the 80th Regiment, now attains the rank of Colonel. Another of these appointments as well as the command of the troops at Shorncliffe may be expected soon to fall in by the promotion of Colonel the Hon. F. Thesiger, who is now the Senior Colonel.

The Lord Warden, 18, armoured-plated ship, has been commissioned at Portsmouth by Captain Norman B. Bedingfeld, the officers and crew having previously been turned over from the Favorite. She has been repaired at a cost of £50,000. Captain Bedingfeld served as a midshipman in China in 1842.

Major-General H. G. Rainey, C.B., has been awarded the Distinguished Service Pension vacated by Lieut.-General Munro, C.B., on being appointed colonel of the 93rd Regiment.

The Malabar, Indian troopship, Capt. Edward Kelly, arrived at Spithead on the 23rd ult., and came into harbour next morning. She left Bombay on the 21st of November, and arrived at Suez on the 5th inst., entering the Canal the same day.

The German corvette Gazelle has been placed in commission at Kiel, and is to proceed shortly to the Mediterranean. Her further course will, it is stated, depend upon circumstances. Should these permit she will be sent to the West Indies.

Monetary and Commercial.

In the Produce Markets owing to the intervention of the Christmas holidays, transactions have been of very limited extent. In Tea and Silk business has been wholly suspended. The market for Coffee, Rice, and Sugar is very strong. An active demand has been manifested for Gambier, China Galls, and Pepper, in all of which considerable business has been done at advancing prices. Other articles are without alteration.

In the Manchester Market the Christmas holidays virtually commenced on the 22nd ult., and the transactions since do not merit mention, the attendance of both buyers and sellers being very small, and on neither side has there been any decided disposition to resume active business, a holiday feeling still prevailing. The quotations of last week are unaltered.

Bar Silver has been sold at 56½d. per oz., a slight recovery from the rate of last week. The market is firm at this quotation. A few small parcels of Mexican Dollars by the American steamers have been sold at 57½d. per oz., for shipment to China, and the Straits.

The amount of bullion per P. and O. steamer *Dream*, from Southampton on the 28th Dec., was:—In gold, to Galle, £33; in silver, to Penang, £26,150; to Singapore, £1,100; to Hong Kong, £31,245; to Shanghai, £5,389; total in silver, £63,875.

The telegraph lines to the Far East are working satisfactorily. The Great Northern Company's line between Nagasaki and Shanghai has been interrupted for a few hours, but communication is now restored.

The *Scotsman* gives a review of the work done in the shipbuilding yards on the Clyde during the past year. The total amount of tonnage launched—204,770 tons—is under that of last year by 23,430, and is 62,000 tons below the aggregate for 1874, and 56,700 tons below that for 1873; but, considering the general dulness of trade, the result is not considered altogether unsatisfactory. The number of vessels launched was 266 against 276 in 1875, 225 in 1874, and 194 in 1873. Perhaps the most marked feature of the trade during the year has been the continued decrease in the number and size of the steam-vessels turned out, their place being taken by iron sailing-ships, which, for the first time for many years, exceed in tonnage as well as numbers the screw-steams launched. The change that has taken place in this respect since the great decline in the iron and coal trades is brought out in a comparison of the figures of 1873 with those of the present year. While in the former 125 screw-steams of 218,000 tons in the aggregate were built, only 83 vessels of this class, of 73,000 tons in all, were turned out. On the other hand, the 12 iron sailing-ships of 1873, aggregating 19,000 tons, had increased in 1876 to 97 vessels of 96,000 tons. Among the vessels launched this year were four war vessels for the British Government. There is at present a fair amount of work in hand at the various yards.

The following are the latest quotations of Banking and other Companies connected with the Far East:—Agra Bank, 9½ to 10½; Chartered Bank of India, 18½ to 19½; Chartered Mercantile Bank, 27½ to 28½; Comptoir D'Escompte, £685 to 695; Hong Kong

and Shanghai Bank, 31 to 32 ; Oriental Bank, 44½ to 45½ ; P. and O. Company, 36 to 38 ; Messageries Maritimes, f.617½ ; Suez Canal, f.670 to 675½ ; Japan Loan 9 per cent., 108 to 111 ; ditto, 7 per cent., 104 to 106.

The following new Joint-Stock Companies (limited) have been registered :—

Blacker Hill Gaslight—Capital £1,000, in £2 10s. shares.

Blackrod Coal—Capital £20,000 in £5 shares.

Breconshire Woollen—Capital £20,000, in £5 shares.

Bridgemarsh Brickfields—Capital £120,000, in £10 shares.

Central Uruguay Railway Company of Montevideo—Capital £1,000,000, in £10 shares.

Heslam Foundry and Engineering—Capital £1,000, in £100 shares.

Kingsland Progressive Club and Institute—Capital £1,000, in £1 shares.

Manchester and District Loan, Discount, and Investment—Capital £2,000, in £1 shares.

Manila Yengarie—Capital £250,000 in £10 shares.

Market Harborough, Kettering, and Wellingborough Skating Rink—Capital 5,000, in £5 shares.

Strahan and Co. (Publishers)—Capital £22,000, in £50 shares.

Tollesbury and Mersea (Blackwater) Oyster Fishery—Capital £30,000, in £5 shares.

Universal Trade Protection Society—Capital £10,000, in £20 shares.

Wimborne Minster Gas and Coal—Capital £5,000, in £10 shares.

Tenders for India Council drafts to the usual amount of 35 lacs of rupees (£350,000) were received at the Bank of England on the 28th ult., and the whole were disposed of—£270,000 being taken for Calcutta, £60,000 for Bombay, and £20,000 for Madras. Tenders on all Presidencies at 1s. 9d. per rupee receive about 50 per cent. of applications, whereas last week tenders at the same price got only 12 per cent. or less. Consequently there has been a further slight reduction in the price of allotment.

Application has been made to the Stock Exchange Committee to allow the Ceylon Government Four-and-a-Half per Cent. Loan, for £400,000, to be officially quoted.

The Bank of Constantinople announces that the *ad interim* dividend of 6 per cent. per annum for the year ending the 31st inst. will be payable on and after the 1st prox.

The directors of the Colonial Bank have decided to declare, at the general meeting to be held on the 4th prox., a dividend of 6 per cent. for the half-year ending on the 30th of June last.

The directors of the Peel River Land and Mineral Company (Limited) have decided to recommend to the proprietors at the annual general meeting, on 12th proximo, a dividend of 2 per cent., free of income-tax, making, with the interim dividend, a total distribution for the year ending 30th June last of 4½ per cent.

The directors of the National Steamship Company (Limited) have declared a dividend of 5s. per share on the original and 4s. per share on the preference shares.

Shipping Intelligence.

ARRIVALS.

Date.	Ship.	Captain.	From	At
Dec. 18	Castilia (s.)	Larragoiti	Manila	Barcelona
19	Wyk aan Zee	De Looper	Tjilatjap	Amsterdam
20	Dorothy	Jackson	Samarang	Do.
20	Antonette	De Boer	Batavia	Do.
20	Red Deer	Ugler	Cheribon	Havre
21	John H. Kimball	Humphreys	Yokohama	Antwerp
22	Prof. Simon Thomas	Lammers	Batavia	Rotterdam
22	Tarn-n	Haspel	Sourabaya	Falmouth
22	Gratitudine	Cañiero	Rangoon	London
22	Lieutenant	Cowper	Padang	New York
22	Sophie	Jones	Hong Kong	Do.
22	S. R. Lyman	Pinkham	Samarang	Havre
23	Annie Lewis	Moore	Manila	Boston, U.S.
23	Ino	Bannan	Swatow	Greenock
23	Cleveland	Revan	Batavia	Do.
24	Ellen Browse	Borching	Hiogo	London
24	Amoor	Ervans	Akyab	Liverpool
25	Cotherstone	Laurensen	Manila	Do.
26	Robert Morrison	Davis	Singapore	New York
27	Shand	Sangster	Manila	Do.
27	Undine	Faulkner	Shanghai	London
27	Cresswell	White	Ho Ho	Liverpool
28	Antenor (s.)	Jones	Shanghai	London

DEPARTURES.

Date.	Ship.	Captain.	To	From
Dec. 15	Camilla	Johnson	Anjer	New York
18	Tenasserim (s.)	McKinstry	Rangoon	Glasgow
20	Peruvienne	Lataste	Batavia	Bordeaux
21	Maid Marian	Forrest	Hong Kong	Cardiff
22	Hope	Upton	Anjer	Newport (Mon.)
22	Hampton (s.)	McMowat	Batavia	Southampton
23	Alpheta	Stone	Rangoon	Liverpool
23	Kangaroo (s.)	Leish	Penang, &c.	London
25	Voorwaarts (s.)	Van Roggen	Batavia	Southampton
25	Juliane	Versman	Yokohama	Falmouth
25	Helens	Inkster	Anjer	Newport (Mon.)
26	Star of the North	Hawkins	Penang	Troon

PASSED SUEZ CANAL.				
Date.	Steamer.	From	To	
Dec. 23	Stentor	Liverpool	Shanghai	
25	... Nestor	London	China & Japan	
<i>See Shipping Postscript and Correspondents' Letters.</i>				

LOADING.

At LONDON.—STEAMERS VIA SUEZ CANAL.—For Singapore, Hong Kong, Yokohama, and Hiogo : Gadhill, Viking. For Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai : State of Louisiana, Macgregor.

SAILING VESSELS.—For Yokohama : Ceylon, Commissary. For Shanghai : Windhofer, Forward Ho. For Hong Kong : C. R. Bishop, Hope, Antwerp, Daphne, Penrith. For Batavia : Mary M. Bird, Valero. For Singapore : Mallard, Berwickshire, Glenisla. For Penang : Zelima. For Colombo : Medusa.

At LIVERPOOL.—For Yokohama : Duna (str.). For Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai : Ulysses (str.), Nestor (str.). For Manila : Eleano. For Batavia : Corea. For Singapore : Edinburgh Castle.

At GLASGOW.—For Yokohama : Radnorshire (str.). For Penang, Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shanghai : Loudoun Castle (str.). For Singapore and Manila : Advance.

SPOKEN.

ARDENCONNEL Liverpool to Galie, Oct. 27, 11 N., 26 W.
LADY PENRHYN, Liverpool to Galie, Oct. 27, 11 N., 26 W.
CORNELIS WERNARD EDUARD, Rottdm. to Bat., Dec. 8, 44.54 N., 13.30 W.
HADDA, Liverpool to Penang, Nov. 2, 4.30 S., 29.50 W.
BELLE OF AVON, Sunderland to Singapore, Oct. 26, 8.53 S., 28.39 W.
CARN TUAL, Manila to Liverpool, Nov. 6, 33.50 S., 15.45 E.

FREIGHTS AND CHARTERS.

Current Rates of Freight for Vessels on the Berth.

Per STEAMERS VIA SUEZ CANAL.—To Yokohama : 50s. weight, 47s. 6d. meat. To Hiogo : 50s. weight, 50s. meat. To Nagasaki : 60s. weight, 65s. meat. To Shanghai : 42s. 6d. weight, 40s. meat. To Hankow : 70s. weight, 70s. meat. To Hong Kong : 42s. 6d. weight, 40s. meat. To Singapore : 42s. 6d. weight, 40s. meat. To Penang : 42s. 6d. weight, 40s. meat. To Colombo : 30s. weight or meat. To Batavia : 60s. meat. To Samarang : 70s. meat. To Sourabaya : 70s. meat.

Per SAILING VESSELS.—To Yokohama : 30s. weight, 30s. meat. To Hiogo : 35s. weight or meat. To Shanghai : 30s. weight, 20s. meat. To Hong Kong : 30s. weight, 20s. meat. To Singapore : 22s. 6d. weight, 20s. meat. To Penang : 20s. weight, 20s. meat. To Batavia Samarang, and Sourabaya : 20s. to 25s. weight, 25s. to 30s. meat. To Colombo : 25s. weight, 22s. 6d. meat.

The current quotations for coal, &c., are as follows:—From Wear or Tyne, per keel—To Yokohama : £30. To Shanghai : £30. To Hong Kong : £25. To Singapore : £22. To Penang : £20. To Colombo : £20. To Galle : £18. To Batavia and Sourabaya : £19.

From Newport, Cardiff, or Swansea, per ton.—To Yokohama : 30s. To Shanghai : 30s. To Hong Kong : 27s. To Manila : 25s. To Singapore : 22s. To Colombo : 20s. To Galle : 19s. To Batavia and Sourabaya : 21s.

From Birkenhead, per ton.—To Hong Kong : 22s. 6d. To Shanghai : 25s. To Singapore : 16s. To Batavia and Sourabaya : 18s. To Galle : 16s.

INSURANCE.

In Tar.	In Tin.	F.Pa.	First-class steamer.			In Tin.	F.T.
			s. d.	s. d.	s. d.		
Penang	25 0	17 6	15 0 {	35 0	22 6	20 0 }	27 6 ... 25
Singapore	25 0	17 6	to 17 6 {	40 0	27 6	25 0	
Colombo	35 0	27 6	25 0	45 0	32 6	25 0	40 0
Hong Kong	35 0	27 6	25 0	45 0	32 6	25 0	30 0
Shanghai	40 0	32 6	30 0	50 0	37 6 }	30 0 {	45
				35 0	to 35 0		40
Yokohama	40 0	32 6	30 0	50 C	42 6	35 0 {	45
					to 35 0		40

CASUALTIES.

LIVERPOOL.—Dec. 28, early yesterday morning a fire was discovered on board the Ulysses (str.), for China, lying in the Birkenhead Dock, which was fortunately extinguished in half an hour. The cause of the fire has not been ascertained. It originated in the engineer's room, and might have been far more serious in its results had it not been discovered soon after the outbreak of the flames, as the steamer had just shipped a valuable cargo of Manchester goods. The actual damage is considerable. The steamer is owned by Mr. Alfred Holt and others.

BATAVIA.—Dec. 27, the Christine, German barque, from Java for the Channel (sugar), has put into Bezoekie leaking badly, and will discharge for repairs; was compelled to run ashore to prevent sinking.

ILO ILO.—(By telegraph dated Singapore, Dec. 27); the barque Monarch, for New York, has put back to repair damage received in severe gales, with loss of stanchions and bulwarks.

The Coldstream, for London, has put back to repair damage received in severe gales; she grounded here, but was got off after discharging part of cargo; is discharging her cargo for survey; reports having seen the James Aiken, hence for New York, with loss of all sails.

MISCELLANEOUS.

NANTES.—Dec. 23, the Isabelle, from Bordeaux, for Singapore, which put into St. Nazaire on the 10th inst., is discharging cargo, in order to allow surveyors to examine the vessel's hull.

MALTA.—Sailed Dec. 23, Orchis (str.) for Marseilles, from Singapore.

NEW YORK.—Dec. 22, the Quang Se (str.), from Hiogo, &c., which grounded in this harbour, has been assisted off.

ST. HELENA.—Arrived and proceeded, Nov. 20, Estrella, from Manila, for Liverpool; 21, Annie Florence, from Colombo; 23, Unkel Braesig

from Ilo Ilo, both for New York ; 28, Lord Macduff, from Whampoa, for London ; passed, 20, Bima, from Macassar, for Rotterdam ; Dec. 2, G. J. Jones, from Sourabaya, for Cork.

ALGOA BAY.—Sailed, Nov. 18, Ceylon, for Guam.

GALLE.—Dec.—Arrived and proceeded Stad Amsterdam (str.), from Batavia, for Nieuwe Diep.

HIOGO.—Nov. 6: The wreck and cargo of the Theseus, Toogood, from Manila for New York, stranded on Kikai Shima, have been sold by auction for \$15. The prospects of recovering anything appear to be extremely small.

GENERAL SHIPPING NEWS.

THE O. AND O. STEAMSHIP COMPANY.—The *San Francisco Herald and Market Report* says :—We have been assured that petitions are being passed round for signatures asking Congress to appropriate a subsidy for the Occidental and Oriental Steamship Company, whose steamships are exclusively British. The grounds upon which this petition is based are that American citizens have some ownership in the concern, and that the steamers are regularly engaged in the American trade between San Francisco and ports in Japan and China. If these two facts constituted sufficient reason for making such application the Cunard, White Star, and the numerous other lines of British steamships running between the United States and Europe, would be equally entitled to ask the pecuniary aid of the American people in their struggle to exclude American steamship commerce from the Atlantic. It has not been made apparent at any time that the proper policy of a Government is to strangle the interests of its own citizens for the sake of fostering those of other nations, nor is it easily demonstrable that the money of our people should be devoted to the destruction of their commercial prosperity.

THE TAMESA.—The Tamesa, of London, Green, which sailed from Hiogo for Yokohama on the 17th of July, and previously reported as not having been heard of since, was a wooden barque of nearly 750 tons gross, built at Sunderland in 1869, classed A 1 at Lloyd's for 16 years, and owned by Messrs. Jolly & Co., of London. Her crew consisted of the following :—Captain John Green, 40, Cornwall ; John Tucker, 43, Devonport, first mate ; W. H. Eales, 20, Ramsgate, second mate ; F. Jarrett, 42, London, carpenter ; John Passfield, 34, Poplar, boatswain ; Peter Louis, 28, Brazil, cook and steward ; William Smith, 53, Cornwall, A.B. ; F. J. Davis, 35, Hants, A.B. ; C. H. Earle, 24, Falmouth, A.B. ; F. Talbot, 25, London, A.B. ; Edmund Church, 40, Swanscombe, A.B. ; Andreas Engstrom, 23, Sweden, A.B. ; C. F. Erickson, 27, Sweden, A.B. ; Samuel Barrett, 18, Jamaica, A.B. ; Thomas Manning, 18, London O.S. ; John Longmore, 16, Poplar, boy ; T. Dyke, 18, Dartford, boy ; and T. Dibb, 16, Hull, and one apprentice.

ELLEN BROWSE.—The following notice has been issued to consignees of cargo of the barque Ellen Browse, from Hiogo at London :—“The above-named vessel having been seized by the mortgagees, consignees are hereby notified of same. Releases of cargo can only be granted by the undersigned, to whom all freight is to be paid, David Brown and Co., 147, Leadenhall-street, agents for R. O. Yeates, Manager, Alliance Bank, Mortgagee.”

THE ANXIETY which was felt as to the safety of the Atlantic steamer City of Berlin was removed on the 23rd ult. by a telegram being received in Liverpool announcing her safe arrival at New York, after a long passage of about seventeen days. The City of Bristol, belonging to the same company, and which was damaged by the late storm, put back into the Mersey on the 23rd ult.

It is notified that the Board of Trade has awarded a portfolio of chromolithographs of English scenery to a Chinese official at Tamsui, in acknowledgment of his assistance to the crews of two British vessels wrecked in Chinese waters, in feeding, lodging, and providing conveyances for them.

The Rotterdam Lloyd screw steamship Hampton, Captain W. R. M'Mountry, sailed from Southampton on the 22nd ult. with the Dutch mails, a large number of passengers, and a full cargo for Padang, Batavia, Samarang, and Sourabaya.

GENERAL FREIGHT REPORT.

The tonnage loading on the berth for India, China, and the Cape of

CHINA INVESTMENT AGENCY.
FULL PARTICULARS OF
STOCKS, SHARES, AND ESTATES
FORWARDED ON APPLICATION TO
SHARP & CO.,
BANK BUILDINGS, HONG KONG.
ESTABLISHED 1859.

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FINEST MEAT FLAVOURING STOCK FOR SOUPS,
MADE DISHES AND SAUCES.

CAUTION.—Genuine only with facsimile of Baron Liebig's signature across label

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FROM CHINA AND JAPAN,
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15, RUE DE LA PAIX, PARIS.
VERITABLE AMBROSIAL CREAM for shaving.
FASHIONABLE PERFUMES for the handkerchief.
STILL-BODE for the hair.
SAPOCETTI, to let soap.
EAU DE COLOGNE (préparation spéciale).
POUDRE DE CYPRIS for the complexion, n° fard,
ni bismuth, no produit chimique.
CREME DE FRAISES (new Cold Cream).

THE AUSTRIAN MONTHLY ORIENTAL REVIEW.

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Edited by A. VON SCALA.

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The “Oesterreichische Monatsschrift für den Orient” has the advantage of the co-operation of the most distinguished savans, and has awakened the greatest interest and influence in all directions. The circulation is increasing daily, and it is steadily gaining in popularity. Subscriptions for 1876 should be sent in early, as it may not be possible later to obtain complete files.

OSLER'S GLASS CHANDELIER

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KEROSENE, MODERATOR, AND OTHER LAMPS
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J. J. CANN,
COMMISSION MERCHANT & GENERAL AGENT
HIOGO-KOBE.
JAPAN
Agent for the *London and China Express*.

NOTICE TO MARINERS.

NO. 63.

CHINA SEA.

TAMSUI DISTRICT.

CORAL PATCH OFF THE ENTRANCE TO KEELUNG HARBOUR.

The following information has been received from Vice-Admiral A. P. Ryder, Commander-in-Chief, China Station:—

H.M.S. *Audacious*, when leaving Keelung Harbour, Formosa, in May last, struck on a coral patch unmarked in the charts. The position of this patch has since been determined by H.M.S. *Lapwing*, and is as follows:—

100 Foot Rock (Keelung Island),
S. 74° E.

Macedonian Point, S. 3° E.

Brooker Point, S. 27° W.

This patch is about 150 to 200 yards in extent, with least water 3½ fathoms (reduced to low ordinary springs), soundings varying from 5 to 9 fathoms on the patch.

The bearings given show the exact position of the 3½ fathome patch.

By order of the Inspector-General of Customs,

DAVID M. HENDERSON,
Engineer-in-Chief.

Imperial Maritime Customs,
Engineer's Office,

Shanghai, 4th Sept., 1876.

 **OVERLAND ROUTE**
and SUEZ CANAL.—The PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY'S STEAMERS sail from Southampton, via the Suez Canal, as follows:—

	Tons	H.p.	...	...
Teheran ..	2,689	400	Jan. 4	Mediterranean, Aden, Bombay.
*Australia ..	3,603	600	Jan. 11	Mediterranean, Aden, Ceylon, Madras, Calcutta, Straits, China, Japan, and Australia.
Pekin	3,777	600	Jan. 18	Mediterranean, Aden, Bombay.
*Poonah ..	3,130	550	Jan. 25	Mediterranean, Aden, Ceylon, Madras, Calcutta, Straits, China, and Japan.

* Taking passengers for Bombay also by branch steamer from Suez.

 **OVERLAND ROUTE**
via ITALY.—The PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL COMPANY despatch their Steamers with the Overland portion of the Mail and Passengers in connection with the departures from Southampton, shown above, as follows:—

From Venice to Alexandria ... Every Friday.

Brindisi ... Monday.

For full particulars apply at the Company's Offices, 128, Leadenhall-street, E.C., and 23, Cockspur-street, S.W.

 **OVERLAND ROUTE**
via MARSEILLES and SUEZ CANAL.—Under contract with the French Government for the conveyance of the Mails to INDIA, CHINA, JAPAN, BATAVIA, REUNION, and MAURITIUS.

The MESSENGERS MARITIMES COMPANY will despatch their steamers from MARSEILLES via the Suez Canal every alternate Sunday at 10 A.M., beginning on Sunday, the 5th of November.

* Passengers eastward of Suez securing their berths in London are entitled to the free conveyance of their luggage to Marseilles, as explained in the Company's handbook.

For Passage, Rates of Freight, and Particulars see the Company's handbook, and apply at the Company's London Head Office, 97, Cannon-street, E.C.; or at the West End Sub-Agency, 51, Pall-mall, S.W.

PRIVATE BOARDING HOUSE, conducted by Mrs. RANGEL (late of Hong Kong), 25, QUEBEC-SQUARE, BAYSWATER. Terms from Two Guineas, including Board, Bath, Piano, &c. Foreign language spoken. References expected.



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Established in 1833.

CAPITAL, £1,000,000.

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Branches in Edinburgh, Calcutta, Bombay, Madras, Kurrachee, Agra, Lahore, Shanghai, Hong Kong.

Current accounts are kept at the Head Office on the terms customary with London Bankers, and interest allowed when the credit balance does not fall below £100.

Deposits received for fixed periods on the following terms, viz.:—At 5 per cent. per annum, subject to twelve months' notice of withdrawal. For shorter periods deposits will be received on terms to be agreed upon. Bills issued at the current exchange of the day on any of the Branches of the Bank free of extra charge; and approved bills purchased or sent for collection. Sales and purchases effected in British and Foreign Securities, in East India Stock and Loans, and the safe custody of the same undertaken. Interest drawn, and Army, Navy, and Civil Pay and Pensions realised. Every other description of Banking Business and Money Agency, British and Indian, transacted.

J. THOMSON, Chairman.

COMPTOIR D'ESCOMPTE DE PARIS.

Incorporated by National Decrees of 7th and 8th of March, 1848, and by Imperial Decree of 30th July, 1866, and 31st December, 1866.

Recognised by the International Convention of 30th April, 1862.

Capital, fully paid up...	... £3,000,000
Reserve fund ...	... 800,000
	£4,000,000

CHIEF MANAGER.—Monseigneur G. Girard.

HEAD OFFICE.—14, Rue Burgere, Paris.

LONDON OFFICE.—144, Leadenhall-street, E.C.
LONDON BANKERS.—The Bank of England, the Union Bank of London.

BRANCHES AT—Lyons, Marseilles, Nantes (France), Brussels (Belgium), Calcutta, Bombay, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Bourbon (Reunion), and Yokohama (Japan).

The Bank grants Drafts and Letters of Credit on all their Branches and Correspondents on the Continent and the East, and transacts Banking business of every description.

HONG KONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

Capital, \$5,000,000. All paid up.

Reserve Fund, \$200,000.

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MANAGER.—David McLean, 31, Lombard-street, E.C.
BANKERS.—London and County Bank.

BRANCHES AND AGENCIES.

Hong Kong	Hankow	Saigon
Shanghai	Yokohama	Singapore
	Foochow	Bombay
	Ningpo	Manila
		Calcutta

The Corporation grant Drafts upon, and negotiate or collect Bills at any of the Branches or Agencies; also receive Deposits for fixed periods, at rates varying with the period of deposit.

The Corporation issue Letters of Credit and Circular Notes, negotiable in the principal cities of Europe, Asia, and America for the use of travellers.

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They also undertake the Agency of constituents connected with the East, and receive for safe custody Indian and other Government Securities, drawing Interest and Dividends on the same as they fall due.

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In consequence of Spurious Imitations of

LEA & PERRINS' SAUCE

which are calculated to deceive the Public,

LEA & PERRINS have adopted

A NEW LABEL,

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which will be placed on every bottle of

WORCESTERSHIRE SAUCE

after this date, and without which none is genuine.

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November, 1874.

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RESERVED FUNDS, £500,000.

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Breadnecke-street, London, 1877.

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JOHN BLAIN.

London, Dec. 30, 1876.

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VAN

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LIST OF AGENTS.

THE NINETEENTH Volume of this JOURNAL commences this 2nd day of January, 1877. Terms for advertising, 2s. 6d. per five lines, and 6s. for each additional line.

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TEETH
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THE BEST PREPARATION FOR THE TEETH.

The Public are particularly requested to take every precaution to protect themselves against unprincipled dealers who offer worthless imitations; and the Proprietors give notice that they will take proceedings against any person found manufacturing or dealing in imitations of their goods, and that they will reward any one who will give such information as shall lead to the conviction of offenders.

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Port.	Ship.	Tns.	Class.	Sailing.
Sing., Hong Kong.	Gadshill, s.s.	1913	100 A1	Jan. 3
Yoko., Do.	Ruddnshire,	100 A1	Jan. 12
Do., Do.	Kintore	738	A1 11 yr.	With des.
Do., Do.	Commissioner	787	A1 15 yr.	To follow
The magnificent steamers above mentioned have elegant and spacious accommodation, replete with every comfort for first-class passengers.				
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The following well-known Clyde-built mail steamers will be despatched on the undesignated dates from SOUTHAMPTON, to PADANG, BATAVIA, SAMARANG, and SURABAYA, calling at Naples, taking cargo for all transhipment ports:—

CONRAD, 3,000 tons, Jan. 16.
CELEBES, 2,965 tons, Feb. 6.

Fares.—First Class, £60; Second Class, £34.

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 GELLATLY, HANKEY, SEWELL, and CO.'S regular line of steamers, via SUEZ CANAL, to PENANG, SINGAPORE, JAVA, SAIGON, CHINA, and JAPAN:—

Ports.	Ship.	Class.	Tns.	Dock.	Sailing.
Pen., Sing., Hong Kong, Yokohama, and Hiogo.	Viking	100 A1	2588	V.I.D.	Jan. 12

For Freight or Passage, apply to GELLATLY, HANKEY, SEWELL, and Co., Albert-square, Manchester; 1, Fenwick-street, Liverpool; 51, Pall-mall, S.W.; or 109, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C.

Steam via the Suez Canal To sail Jan. 12.

 FOR PENANG, SINGAPORE, HONG KONG, YOKOHAMA, and HIODO, the splendid Clyde-built screw steamship VIKING, 100 A1, 1,686 tons register, 2,688 tons gross weight, 350-horse power nominal, 1,750-horse power effective, G. CASTLE, commander, Victoria Docks. This fine high-powered steamer, well-known in the China trade, is strongly recommended to shippers.

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Steamers.	Class.	Tons.	Horse-power.	Date of Sailing.
State of Louisiana	100 A1	1,869	240	Jan. 9
Glenartney	100 A1	2,106	330	To follow
Glenorchy	100 A1	2,738	400	To follow
Glenarm	100 A1	2,130	330	To follow
Glencaig	100 A1	2,120	330	To follow
Glenville	100 A1	1,676	200	To follow
Glenlyon	100 A1	2,119	275	To follow
Glenfalloch	100 A1	2,136	275	To follow
Glenfinlas	100 A1	2,120	330	To follow
Glenroy	100 A1	2,121	250	To follow

For terms of Freight and Passage apply to McGREGOR, Gow, and Co., No. 1, East India-avenue, London, E.C.

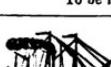
 ROBERTSON and CO.'S INDIA, CHINA, and JAVA LINES of STEAM and SAILING SHIPS:—

Port.	Ship.	Class.	Dock.	To sail.
Pen., Sing., Hg. Kg., & Shan.	Hesperia, s.s.	—	S.W.I.	With des.
Singapore	Berwickshire	A1 11 yr.	S.W.I.	With des.
Hong Kong	C. R. Bishop	3-3dsL.I.L.	S.W.I.	With des.
Hong Kong	Antwerp	3-3dsL.I.L.	S.W.I.	With des.
Shanghai	Cuts of Aber-	dean	A1 15 yr.	S.W.I.
Shanghai	Forward Ho!	A1 17 yr.	S.W.I.	To follow

Apply at 5, Newman's-court, Cornhill, London, E.C.

 CASTLE LINE OF STEAM PACKETS FOR SINGAPORE, HONG KONG, and SHANGHAI, from Glasgow via London and Suez Canal, taking goods at through rates for JAVA, JAPAN, and EASTERN AUSTRALIAN PORTS.—Now loading at Glasgow.—Last shipping day in Glasgow, January 10, and in London, January 29, 1877.—The magnificent new Clyde-built s.s. LOUDOUN CASTLE, 9,472 tons gross, 1,615 tons net register, 450-horse power nominal, 2,250-horse power effective. This splendid steamer, just built by Messrs. J. and G. Thompson, Glasgow, has superior accommodation for a limited number of passengers in the portholes, and from her great horse-power is expected to prove herself one of the fastest boats in the China trade.

Apply to THOMAS SKINNER and Co., 5, East India-avenue, London, E.C.
To be followed by the Fleurs Castle.

 CHINA AND JAPAN, FROM HAMBURG.—THE HAMBURG AMERICAN COMPANY'S steamers leave Hamburg on the 27th, and Havre on the 30th of every month, for ASPINWALL (Colombia), taking passengers and cargo at through rates to Japan and China, via San Francisco, per Pacific mail steamers.

Full particulars of rates of Freight and Passage money can be obtained from the Agents in London, Messrs. SMITH, SUNDRIES, and Co., 33, Gracechurch-street, or at the Head Office in Hamburg.

 SHAW, WILLIAMS, and CO. will despatch the following high class vessels as under:—

Ports.	Vessel.	Class.	Tns.	Dock.	Sailing.
Hong Kong	Enid	AA	496	S.W.I.	With des.
Hong Kong	Scandinavia	AA1	594	S.W.I.	To follow
Hong Kong	Cora	A1 14 yr.	5-1	S.W.I.	To follow
Shanghai	IB-1st	IB-1st	812	S.W.I.	With des.
Shanghai	Melbrick	A1 15 yr.	570	S.W.I.	To follow

For Freight or Passage apply to SHAW, WILLIAMS, and Co., 9, Fenchurch-street, E.C.

 CHINA. THE following SPLendid First-class CLIPPER SHIPS will be despatched as under:—

Port.	Ship.	Class.	Dock.	To sail.
Hong Kong	Hope	AA1	E.I.D.	With des.
Hong Kong	Daphne	AA1	E.I.D.	To follow
Hong Kong	Kaisow	A1 16 yr.	E.I.D.	With des.
Shanghai	Oaks	A1 17 yr.	E.I.D.	With des.

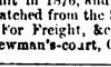
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